

Hafa Adai!

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Mass testing to be free

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

In an attempt to test more people, a drive-thru service for COVID-19 testing has been happening throughout the world and this could possibly be available at the Commonwealth Health Care Corp. late this month or early next month.

According to Esther Muña, CHCC chief executive officer, the drive-thru that could potentially happen will be able to test everyone in the CNMI but that will still take time.

"If we're going to test about 50,000 people, that won't hap-

pen quickly," she said.

Testing for COVID-19 isn't exactly like a pregnancy test where you get your results in five minutes. It will take some time since specimen will be collected first and then the results will take a little time

to show up.

She did confirm that it is the intention to make mass testing be free.

"When there is a public health problem in our community, I want to make sure that an individual to feel

AT A GLANCE

As of 5pm, April 16, 2020

GUAM	CNMI
Positive: 135	Positive: 13
Recovered: 86	Recovered: 9
Deaths: 6*	Deaths: 2

*Total includes a sailor from the USS Theodore Roosevelt

Source: Joint Information Center-Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp

free to come forward [and get tested]," said Muña. "We want

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CPA tenants ask to defer lease payments

» Board to talk about allowing online meetings

By FERGIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Many of the Commonwealth Ports Authority's airport tenants have asked CPA to allow

them to defer payments on their leases due to the shutdown of the Saipan airport's operation as a result of COVID-19 pandemic.

See CPA on Page 4



File photo shows the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. A lot of tenants at the airport have requested the Commonwealth Ports Authority to defer lease payments due to COVID-19's impact on their operations.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE



'GRAB & GO' RESUMES

The Public School System resumed its Grab & Go meal distribution for its students at many drop-off points in the CNMI yesterday. Photo shows the cars of parents lining up at the Francisco M. Sablan Middle School distribution point.

KRIZEL TUAZON

PSS looks into drive-thru graduation

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Public School System is looking at possible ways to promote graduating seniors without violating the current social distancing directive and one of the plans being discussed is a drive-thru graduation.

According to Education

Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada, the PSS administration has been in discussion about how they can provide a graduation for the Class of 2020 despite the current challenges wrought by COVID-19.

"We do have plans on how we can be creative in doing a graduation with the COVID-19 directive. I know it's

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US relief checks begin arriving

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER,
PAUL WISEMAN and KELLI
KENNEDY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—Government relief checks began arriving in Americans' bank accounts as the economic damage to the U.S. from the coronavirus piled up Wednesday and sluggish sales

at reopened stores in Europe and China made it clear that business won't necessarily bounce right back when the crisis eases.

With many factories shut down, American industrial output shriveled in March, registering its biggest decline since the U.S. demobilized in 1946 at the end of World

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INSIDE



BUSINESS

Evidence of the coronavirus' devastating impact on the U.S. economy is steadily emerging.

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NATION

Thousands in Michigan protest orders to keep people at home and businesses locked up.

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LIFE & STYLE

Notre Dame Cathedral stands crippled and alone, a year after a fire gutted its interior.

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Local

With the COVID-19 pandemic, what's next for NMI tourism?

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

With the CNMI's tourism industry at a standstill, what's next for the Commonwealth?

With the COVID-19 pandemic laying bare the vulnerability of the local economy—with the revenue downturn from the lack of tourists in the CNMI, mass layoffs, businesses and hotels closing, and even the government shutting

down—the question of what's next for the CNMI's primary economic driver is paramount on everyone's mind these days.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres emphasized, though, that, while revenue from tourism is important, the health of the community is the government's priority.

"As much as our revenue here is derived from our tourism, our priority and my priority, with the administration and

public health, is our [health]," Torres said in an interview.

While he does hope that the islands can have the tourists back, he does not foresee tourism numbers growing in the CNMI soon while the COVID-19 pandemic is ongoing. "I hope that this year, in the next several months," Torres said when asked when expects to open the CNMI to tourism again. The governor was quick to add, though, that he

"honestly does not foresee the tourism industry opening up."

The governor also added that even if Saipan gets clear and becomes coronavirus-free in the next month or two, the industry would still be in a freeze, given that Asia is the CNMI's tourism market.

He also foresees the CNMI tourism industry changing due to the pandemic. "We've done so much precautionary mea-

sures, so much preventive measures, that even our tourism industry is going to change."

He hinted that there would be an added layer of security that the Marianas Visitors Authority is planning to implement, such as requiring visitors to be tested for COVID-19. "Our tourists that come here, we welcome them, when and if we open those borders, but we would want to have our own test kits ready here and mandate every tourist that comes to the island to get our own test here, and get swabbed here,

and make sure that everybody that's landing will go through the same process."

The governor said that tourism measures are being planned ahead, with MVA, to protect everyone in the CNMI. "That's a security for us, and also security for our tourists. I know that we don't have tourists coming in yet but...we're already planning ahead, what we should do here...to protect our nurses and doctors and everybody so that CNMI is viewed as a tourist destination that is safe...[with] our beautiful, natural habitat, and the environment."

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363 on Karidat's waitlist

Karidat Social Services has a long waiting list for its rental assistance program due to the COVID-19 pandemic currently gripping the CNMI.

Right now, the waiting list has 363 families asking for help, according to Karidat, which has already spent \$40,000 for 98 households.

"We will continue to work our way down the waiting list to assist as many families as we can," said Karidat executive director Lauri Ogomoro. "We have been trying to assist 25 people per day on the waitlist."

Due to lack of staff, Karidat has begun a partnership with the United Filipino Organization to distribute canned food during the weekend to those who are in need.

After the CNMI government shut down, most businesses and hotels followed suit and temporarily closed. Due to this, most employees are fur-

loughed or on shortened hours. Most residents in CNMI need help paying bills due to this situation and Karidat is stepping into the breach by helping residents with their rental costs.

Ogomoro hopes for additional funds to come in as soon as possible because a lot of contract workers as well as Public School System employees may need the assistance too.

Emilia (last name withheld on request), 34, of Chalan Kanoa said she is thankful that Karidat has been assisting her family during this pandemic. "It is really a difficult time for all of us here in the CNMI. We must come together to help and be patient," she said.

Ogomoro would like to remind residents to "stay home, stay safe, and she is very thankful."

For more information on Karidat's rental assistance program, call 234-6981. (Chey Alipio)

Burglary and theft at auto shop

On Thursday, April 16, 2020, at about 7:26am, the Department of Public Safety received a call reporting a theft incident at an auto shop in Koblerville. A unit was dispatched to the scene. At the scene an officer met with an employee of the shop who told the officer he had called for police assistance,

that several items around the shop were missing, and that an unknown container had been left next to the generator.

At this time, items reported missing include a green-colored Makita branded electric drill, a green-colored Makita branded electric grinder, and a flashlight (no brand reported). (PR)

Public warned of high surf today

A high surf advisory is in effect for north and west facing reefs in the CNMI until 6pm today, Friday.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, a northwest swell continues to produce hazardous surf on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Large breaking waves will cause surf of 10 to 12 feet in the surf zone along north and west

facing reefs of Guam, Rota, Tinian, and Saipan until 6pm today. Waves and surf of 10 to 12 feet will be present along north and west facing reefs through this afternoon, creating dangerous swimming and surfing conditions. The public is being advised to avoid venturing out along the reef line. Surf will be hazardous along north and west facing beaches, producing localized beach erosion and dangerous swimming conditions. Do not venture out along reef lines. (PR)

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CNMI remains under State of Emergency

The CNMI remains under a state of emergency following Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' renewal of the declaration of a state of public health emergency and continued declaration of a state of significant emergency Wednesday night.

"The emergency declarations are necessary to respond, quarantine and ensure the prevention of or containment of COVID-19 in the CNMI," he said in his renewal.

Torres sustained the declaration, under Executive

Order 2020-06, stating that COVID-19 continues to pose a significant and imminent threat of harm to the CNMI community, especially with the two cases identified by the COVID-19 Task Force and the Commonwealth Health Care

Corp. last March 28.

To date, 13 individuals had been confirmed positive with COVID-19 on Saipan, nine of whom recovered and are now back in their homes while being closely monitored, two of whom have died.

"COVID-19 is a highly contagious disease that can lead to serious illness and death, especially for the elderly and people who have severe underlying medical conditions. There is no confirmed treat-

ment for COVID-19 other than quarantine, isolation and containment," Torres stated in the executive order. "The potential pandemic impact of COVID-19 cannot be understated. Action is necessary to protect the health and safety

of our children, our senior citizens, businesses, and all other CNMI residents and visitors."

The order is to remain in effect for 30 days, along with all the directives and memoranda previously issued by the gov-



Torres

ernor to ensure an effective response, quarantine, and preventive containment measures of the COVID-19 threat in the CNMI.

This includes the enhanced social distancing directive intended to limit public gatherings of people,

and to prevent potential public exposure of residents, to prevent the spread of the virus on island.

The governor first declared the CNMI under a state of significant emergency on Jan. 29, 2020. *(Iva Maurin)*

Kilili, San Nicolas, Radewagen set insular goals for 'CARES II'

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegates of three U.S. territories—the CNMI, Guam, and American Samoa—have again joined forces to identify priorities in a coronavirus relief package.

The three—Insular Affairs vice chair Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, and Delegates Michael San Nicolas (D-Guam) and Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen (R-American Samoa)—teamed up successfully last month during negotiations on the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, "CARES Act," and want to have the same influence on a future CARES II.

"Last time, we advocated for national policies to be drafted in a way that would be particularly helpful to the Pacific insular areas," Sablan said. "Direct aid to states and territories facing revenue shortfalls with a special emphasis on increased school funding; unemployment benefits, even in areas like ours without unemployment insurance programs; direct payments to taxpayers with the federal government covering the cost for our areas; and increased Medicaid funding—that is what we asked for and that is what we got."

Educators

For the next funding round, the Pacific insular area delegation wants to further increase aid to education. The Democratic alternative to the CARES Act contained \$250 million for island schools, while the CARES Act only provides \$151 million. The delegates want the extra \$99 million in CARES II.

They also want to fine-tune legislative language, so the U.S. Department of Education has less power to decide how much money goes to island schools. And the delegates want to spec-

ify that island school systems must use the money Congress provides to maintain educational services to students during the coronavirus crisis.

"That would mean keeping teachers on salary and paying for computers and internet access, so students and teachers could do their work online," Sablan said.

Infrastructure funding

The delegates also anticipate that CARES II could include a substantial investment in infrastructure funding. Both the White House and Democratic leadership in Congress have said that infrastructure spending could be a powerful tool to restart the economy after the coronavirus shutdown. And investment in America's deteriorated infrastructure would also underpin future economic growth and public health.

The delegates' focus is on the need for modern water infrastructure on the islands. In the Marianas, for instance, households and businesses cannot get potable water from the public utility. Substandard sewage systems threaten limited groundwater supplies and foul the ocean waters and reefs that are the primary drivers of the tourism economy.

"The Environmental Protection Agency reported to Congress in 2015 how much is needed to bring our insular area water systems up to the national standard—about \$200 million for the Marianas, and about \$300 million each for Guam and American Samoa," Sablan said.

House Democrats have already put forward a \$50.5 billion water infrastructure proposal; and the delegates have asked for a 2% set-aside to

cover EPA's cost estimates for insular needs.

The delegates also back inclusion of the Rebuild America's Schools Act, H.R. 865, in CARES II. As chairman of the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education, Sablan helped draft this bill to address the \$177 million in deferred maintenance needs that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports in island schools. The Act already has 212 cosponsors.

Healthcare for all

During the health crisis caused by the coronavirus, the delegates also returned in their CARES II request to equity under the national healthcare programs for people in the insular areas.

"This pandemic really exposes the gaps in America's healthcare systems," Sablan said. "There is national attention on how the lack of health insurance impacts the African American community and results in higher death rates from coronavirus. About 19% of African-Americans are without health insurance.

"But in the Marianas the uninsured rate is 34%, in Guam about 20%, and in American Samoa over 60% have no health insurance. So, we are asking for full inclusion of the insular areas in the Affordable Care Act to give our people the ability to buy subsidized insurance through an Obamacare exchange. And to cover those whose incomes are even lower, we want a repeal of the artificial cap on federal Medicaid expenditures in American Samoa, Guam, and the Marianas," he said.

On Tuesday, Sablan introduced H.R. 6495 to repeal the Medicaid cap. *(PR)*

IPI sanctioned for civil contempt

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona found Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC in civil contempt yesterday for violating the court's two orders regarding discovery in connection with a lawsuit filed against IPI and two others by seven former workers.

At the hearing via video conference, Manglona granted the former workers' motion to sanction IPI and ordered it to submit a list of data by certain deadlines. According to the minutes of the hearing, Manglona told the parties that if IPI fails to comply with the deadlines ordered yesterday, a monetary sanction of \$2,000 a day will be imposed until IPI complies. The judge ordered IPI to file a certification of compliance to avoid sanctions.

She told the lawyers that if more time is needed, IPI is to meet and confer with plaintiffs before seeking relief from the court. Manglona granted plaintiffs' attorney's fees and costs for the motion for sanctions.

The plaintiffs were ordered to submit evidence of hours used. Manglona will issue a separate decision and order on the motion for attorney's fees and costs.

The judge granted plaintiffs' counsel Aaron Halegua's oral request for an extension of time to file an amended complaint and include new parties in the lawsuit. Counsel for IPI and co-defendants did not object to Halegua's request. The court gave plaintiffs until May 23 to file an

amended complaint.

All parties appeared at the hearing via video conference.

Halegua and Bruce Berline appeared for the seven plaintiffs. Attorneys Sean Frink and Catherine Cachero represented IPI. Tiberius Mocanu

and Robert T. Torres appeared as counsel, respectively, for defendants Gold Mantis Construction Decoration (CNMI) LLC and MCC International Saipan Ltd. Co.

At the hearing, Halegua provided an update on the status of discovery exchange and argued in support of their motion for sanctions.

Frink and Cachero provided an update on the status of discovery exchange. Frink argued in response to Halegua's argument.

The plaintiffs, who are now based in China, are suing IPI and its contractors, MCC International and Gold Mantis Construction, over the alleged injuries they suffered during accidents at the worksite of IPI's casino/resort project in Garapan.

The plaintiffs have requested the court to sanction against IPI for allegedly violating the court's two orders.

The plaintiffs, through Halegua and Berline, said IPI has violated the court's initial order to produce all discovery materials by Jan. 13, 2020. Halegua and Berline said IPI now also violated the court's



Manglona

stipulation requiring it to produce all discovery materials by Feb. 24, 2020.

In IPI's opposition to the motion for sanctions, IPI counsel Kelley Marie Butcher said she and IPI identified and contracted with

Litigation Edge to assist them with complying with IPI's e-discovery obligations for this case. Butcher pointed out that while IPI has missed some discovery deadlines, its doing so was not due to willfulness, bad faith, or the fault of IPI.

Last Dec. 12, Manglona granted the plaintiffs' counter-motion to compel IPI to respond to their discovery requests. Manglona ordered IPI to respond to all discovery requests.

The judge also granted the workers' motion to sanction IPI and ordered the company to pay attorneys' fees to the plaintiffs/workers for bringing the motion to compel.

The plaintiffs have requested the court to award them \$31,801 in attorneys' fees and \$156 in costs in connection with their motion to compel. The issue of fees and costs is still pending in court.

The plaintiffs—Tianming Wang, Dong Han, Yongjun Meng, Liangcai Sun, Youli Wang, Quingchun Xu, and Xiyang Du—are suing IPI, MCC and MCC's subcontractor, Gold Mantis Construction Decoration (CNMI) LLC. *(Ferdie De La Torre)*



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LTDF invites students to write stories

The Lady Diann Torres Foundation's 3rd Annual Young Author's Language in Literacy Writing Competition is calling on all students to have their original stories published.

This is the third year of the program, which invites students to participate in hopes of getting their books published.

To participate, authors must be

between 11 and 18 years old, stories must reflect the CNMI's local culture or practices, and the original story must have a translation in either Chamorro, Carolinian, or both



TRASH FIRE

Thick, black smoke rises from the back of the Chalan Piao Supermarket in Chalan Piao at 2:30pm last Wednesday. The fire was later determined to be a trash fire and was quickly suppressed by firefighters. The National Weather Service in Guam said yesterday that drought conditions continue to persist across a large area of Micronesia.

JUSTINE NAUTA

US

From Page 1

War II. Retail sales fell by an unprecedented 8.7%, with April expected to be far worse.

The world's biggest economy began issuing one-time payments this week to tens of millions of people as part of its \$2.2 trillion coronavirus relief package, with adults receiving up to \$1,200 each and \$500 per child to help them pay the rent or cover other bills. The checks will be directly deposited into accounts or mailed to households in the coming weeks, depending on how people filed their tax returns.

Among those receiving a check was Jacqueline Gonzalez, a 32-year-old single mother who was laid off from her job as a bartender and lives with her mother, a teacher, in Miami Lakes, Florida. Gonzalez paid her car insurance and gave her mother \$500 for rent. She has signed up for food stamps.

"There is no other form of income for us right now. We have no other choice. We can't work from home," she said. "We're just sitting here."

Bills are racking up."

In an unprecedented move, President Donald Trump's name will be printed on the paper checks. Still, in some places under stay-at-home orders, frustrations began to boil over among those worried the economic toll is more crushing than the virus itself.

And elsewhere around the world, the first steps in lifting economically crippling restrictions are running into resistance, with customers staying away from the reopened businesses and workers afraid of risking their health.

In China, millions are still wary of spending much or even going out. Some cities have resorted to handing out vouchers and trying to reassure consumers by showing officials in state media eating in restaurants.

"I put off plans to change cars and spend almost nothing on eating out or entertainment," said Zhang Hu, a truck salesman in Zhengzhou who has gone back to work but has seen his income plummet because few people are buying 20-ton rigs. "I have no idea when the situation will turn better."

In Austria, Marie Froehlich, who owns a clothing store in Vienna, said her staff was happy to be back after weeks cooped up at home. But dependent largely on tourism, which has dried up amid the travel restrictions, she expects the business will take months to return to normal.

"Until then, we are in crisis mode," she said.

Rome's streets were also largely deserted despite the reopening of some stores.

Worldwide, deaths have topped 130,000 and confirmed infections 2 million, according to the tally kept by Johns Hopkins University. The figures understate the true size of the crisis, in part because of limited testing, different ways of counting the dead, and concealment by some governments.

The U.S. has recorded approximately 28,000 deaths—highest in the world—and over 600,000 confirmed infections, by Johns Hopkins' count. Still, the nightmare scenarios projecting a far greater number of deaths and hospitalizations have not come to pass, raising hopes from coast to coast.

MASS

From Page 1

to be able to protect our community."

In the case of undocumented persons, Muña said that that's a line she does not want to cross and her intention is to be sure that every individual will be comfortable enough to know that they won't get reported if they are undocumented.

Since the CNMI submitted its first specimen for testing last Feb. 11, Muña made the decision not to charge anyone for coronavirus testing since it's a "public health issue."

Martin (not his real name), who agreed to speak on condition of anonymity, said that making the tests free and open to everyone "is a huge step since the testing itself will give people a peace of mind."

"It's great to know that one of the most frequently asked questions is answered, which is 'Will the testing be free?'" he added.

"Saipan can slowly go back to normal and people can go outside with little to no fear and know that they won't affect anyone," added Joe (not his real name). "I also think that even if everyone does get tested, the community should still practice good hygiene and social distancing."

In an earlier radio interview, Muña acknowledged that the test kits that recently arrived on Saipan aren't U.S. Food and Drug Administration-approved but pointed out these are not meant to be used in clinical care.

The test kits are Korea FDA-approved so it will serve the purpose of surveillance, and primarily for public

health activities, including containment of the virus.

"It's more power to the [Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.] to be able to determine that there's a particular case and further protecting from further widespread of the virus in our community," said Muña.

COVID-19 in Guam

Guam has had good news in the past few days. Its Department of Public Health and Social Service tested 30 people for COVID-19 last April 15 and all 30 tested negative.

The Guam Memorial Hospital Authority tested 13 individuals for COVID-19 last April 15 and all 13 also tested negative.

Guam still has 135 confirmed positive cases, six deaths, including a USS *Theodore Roosevelt* sailor, and 86 recoveries.

languages.

In addition, the foundation was approved a grant from the NMI Humanities Council and they have the opportunity to at least publish two or more books than they normally do.

Cielo Long, who is from Tinian Junior Senior High School and earlier won a chance to have her story published, said she was truly amazed that she got an opportunity to share her writing passion.

"Thanks to the Lady Diann Torres Foundation, I was a part of events and donated my book to various libraries

as well as local families," she said

Long would like to encourage future young writers to take advantage of this incredible opportunity.

"Express yourself through writing, and expand your potential. I would have never thought that something as simple as a short story contest would greatly impact my capabilities as a writer," she added.

Submission deadline will be on May 15, 2020

For further questions, call the foundation at (670) 287-1949. (Chevy Alipio)

PSS

From Page 1

challenging but I think it's going to be fun," he said.

Ada said because the drive-thru method has proven successful in the past, with the Child Nutrition Program meal distribution as an example, PSS administration is looking at drive-thru diploma distributions.

"We're really big on drive-thru. Because of social distancing, we may have a drive-thru diploma distribution," Ada said.

Although the drive-thru diploma distribution is still on the planning stages, Ada said there is still a possibility that seniors will have their graduation, even if it might be later in the year, around August or October.

"We're trying to come up with something to have some kind of graduation ceremony. We might postpone graduation until it's safe. If by June it's still not safe, then we might have a ceremony in August or October. We're speculating right now

because every day with COVID-19 is different and we need to shift each time," he said.

Right now, for safety purposes, graduations remain cancelled.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Ada doesn't want to keep anyone's hopes up and, although he doesn't want to cancel the graduations, it's become absolutely necessary for the safety of the students, PSS staff, and the entire community.

"At this point, we are canceling all graduations for now until further notice. If something else comes up, like an idea, we will explore that. I don't want to give any false hopes and say, 'We might still have graduation,'" he said.

A university in Japan made waves last month after it cancelled its graduation ceremony, due to social distancing measures brought about by the coronavirus pandemic. Instead, the university deployed robots, with iPads as faces, standing in for the students and collecting diplomas on their behalf.

CPA

From Page 1

Those requests, together with the possibility of amending the CPA board's bylaws to allow board meetings via teleconference, will be taken up in an emergency board meeting this Monday.

CPA board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds said yesterday that chief on the meeting agenda is their tenants' request for relief on their leases. She disclosed that a lot of their tenants have requested to defer lease payments due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on their operations.

The special meeting will be held starting at 6pm between the arrival and departure terminals of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

At the last CPA board meeting, Barrie C. Toves, who chairs the Airport Facilities Committee, recommended to the board to amend their bylaws to allow board members to attend meetings either via teleconference, videocall, or others means.

"Our bylaws as it currently stands requires board members' physical presence to vote on matters presented to the board for action," said Toves, who is a resident of Rota.

By amending the bylaws, this would allow him to remain on Rota while participating in board meetings and for his vote to be counted, Toves said, adding that he intends to participate in Monday's meeting, but will but just to listen as his colleagues

vote whether to adopt the amendment or not.

On the matter of tenant leases, he said CPA should consider helping out its tenants considering that CPA is expecting to get \$22.75 million under the CARES Act for airports.

"We're all in this [COVID-19] pandemic together and therefore we should all come together to help each other out," Toves said.

Starting last April 3, Star Marianas Air temporarily suspended its scheduled flight services between the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Star Marianas Air president Shaun R. Christian said the suspension will take effect until such time that the provision of scheduled services become helpful to serving the communities.

Christian, however, stated that Star Marianas will continue to provide 24-hour emergency flight services for patient transfers and other transportation needs to support control efforts in the fight against the COVID-19 virus.

He said Star Marianas will also continue to provide inter-island air cargo services between the CNMI and Guam.

United Airlines had also suspended all its flights into and out of the CNMI from Guam from April 6 to 30, 2020.

Skymark Airlines Inc.'s last flights between Saipan and Japan were last March 25, closing the CNMI's door to international flights. The suspension of the flights will be until May 10, 2020.

Drought intensifies across much of Micronesia

The National Weather Service in Guam issued an advisory yesterday that drought conditions continue to persist across a large area of far western Micronesia, which includes Yap state, the Republic of Palau, and, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

The advisory states that a drier than normal trade-wind

pattern "has persisted across much of Micronesia the past few months. Although the synoptic pattern has been typical for this time of year and ENSO-neutral conditions prevail, rainfall has been inadequate for many islands. This has been primarily due to a fairly weak intertropical convergent zone that has been

largely confined to areas east of 150E. Additionally, anomalously warm water has persisted near the dateline the past several months. This warmer than normal water has encouraged convection near the dateline and suppressed convection farther west over much of Micronesia, especially far western Micronesia."

So far, no official water conservation measures are in effect in the Marianas. Saipan is

most susceptible for impacted groundwater, but officials report water levels are still above thresholds for concern. "All guidance points to continued dry weather with only a few weak disturbances providing a few showers at times. The National Multi-Model Ensemble continues to suggest drier than normal weather will continue for the next month or two. This is consistent with the synoptic pattern." The Marian-

as can expect 0.5 to 1.5 inches during the next 10 days.

Visit the following links for the latest advisory information:

■ CNMI EOC State Warning Point Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/cnmieocswp/>

■ CNMI Office of the Governor Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CNMIGov/>

■ Governor Ralph DLG. Torres Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ralphdlg.torres/>

■ CNMI Joint Information

Center: <https://www.facebook.com/JICNMI/>

Homeland Security and Emergency Management also encourages residents to download HSEM's readyCNMI App available for free in the Apple Store or Google PlayStore to receive the latest weather updates and notifications.

For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000 or 664-8000. (PR)

Man arrested for alleged illegal drug possession

On Monday, April 13, 2020, at about 12:40pm, a CNMI Department of Public Safety police officer was conducting routine patrol through the village of Chalan Kanoa, when the officer noticed a sedan with a faulty brake light. The officer turned on his blue lights to conduct a stop. As the officer got out of his vehicle and walked toward the



Aldan

instructed the officer to search the vehicle.

As soon as the officer opened the driver side door and began the search, he noticed a glass pipe under the driver's seat with a clear zip baggie containing a crystal-like substance. The officer notified dispatch and another officer was dispatched to the scene. At 1:16pm, an

officer arrived with a narcotics identification kit and tested the contents of the zip baggie. The contents yielded presumptive positive for methamphetamine. At about 1:20pm, Victor Lawrence Hocog Aldan was arrested for the charges of illegal possession of a controlled substance. He was transferred to the Department of Corrections where he was booked and detained. (PR)

Parolee is arrested for domestic violence

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Convicted murderer and parolee Shawn Appleby was brought to a parole revocation hearing last Monday after being arrested last March 24 for domestic violence, according to Board of Parole documents.

According to parole officer Jason A. Lizama in his violation citation report, the 40-year-old Appleby was arrested for domestic violence and disturbing the peace at his home in Dandan.

Lizama said the victim in this case is a parolee herself. Among the conditions of Appleby's parole is that he shall not engage in criminal conduct. Other parole conditions is that Appleby shall not associate with persons engaged in criminal activities or with persons that have been convicted of a crime.

Chief parole officer Nick M. Reyes said that in his interview last March 24, Appleby stated that they had just an argument but no physical contact happened. The argument with the alleged victim was reportedly about food and payroll.

A preliminary hearing was set last Monday afternoon at the Department of Corrections in order to determine whether there is a probable cause to believe that Appleby violated the conditions of his parole. The hearing was also intended



Bradley

to determine whether the matter should be referred for consideration by the Parole Board. Appleby is currently in

DOC's custody.

Chief prosecutor John Bradley told *Saipan Tribune* that the Parole Board did find probable cause against Appleby and that a hearing date for revocation is next.

In September 2019, despite the OAG's and the Parole Office's opposition to grant Appleby parole, the Parole Board voted to release him.

Appleby was sentenced to serve a 42-year sentence to run concurrently for the charges of first-degree murder and escape.

Bradley had opposed the grant of parole to Appleby, saying he is not suitable for parole. He said Appleby has served less than half of his sentence and has slightly over 24 years remaining. The chief prosecutor said the inmate was previously granted parole in Feb. 2011, only to be revoked in December 2012 for violating the conditions of his parole. Bradley said that Appleby admitted in his interview for the investigation report that he drinks alcohol and uses crystal meth. He said Appleby's admitted use of meth could potentially result in

'SSI recipients to get recovery rebates by direct deposit'

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said efforts to have the U.S. Treasury issue \$1,200 "recovery rebates" automatically to Supplemental Security Income recipients have been successful.

"Treasury decided today to issue most payments automatically to those receiving SSI," Sablan said. "The recovery rebates that Congress included as part of last month's Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act—the CARES Act—will be direct deposited into bank accounts just like their monthly SSI payments."

There are approximately 1,018 SSI recipients in the Marianas. Treasury expects the payments will be made no later than early May.

An exception is for SSI recipients, who have dependent children under age 17. Those recipients will need to use the "Non-Filers Enter Info Here" portal at IRS.gov to enter social security numbers and other basic information about their children in order to get an additional \$500 per child along with the \$1,200 individual payment. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said the Department would get payments to individuals with children "as quickly as possible."

Additionally, any new beneficiaries since Jan. 1, 2020, of SSI benefits will need to



Sablan

Congress began pushing Treasury, soon after the CARES Act was signed, to issue recovery rebate checks to Social Security and SSI beneficiaries and to veterans on pensions automatically and by direct deposit to bank accounts. The Treasury Department has not

go to the IRS's Non-Filers website to enter their information.

Sablan and over 100 other Democratic members of

yet decided how to manage payments to veterans.

Supplemental Security Income is a federal cash assistance program that provides monthly payments to low-income aged, blind, or disabled persons in the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Northern Mariana Islands. SSI was a benefit negotiated in the Marianas Covenant of Political Union with the United States.

Of the 1,018 Marianas recipients in December 2018, 147 were aged, 5 blind, and 886 disabled. (PR)

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PO BOX 501055, SAIPAN, MP 96950
Phone: (1-478) 231-6500/1 Fax: (1-478) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@cpa.gov.mp Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) hereby gives notice that a Special Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Monday, April 20, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. between the Arrival and Departure Terminals of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport on the island of Saipan. The following items are on the agenda for the above-referenced meeting:

AGENDA

- PRELIMINARY MATTERS**
 1. Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Adoption of Agenda
 4. Adoption of Minutes (March 12, 2020)
- PUBLIC COMMENT(S)**
- SPECIAL MEETING ITEMS:**
 1. Board bylaws
 2. Tenant leases
- EXECUTIVE SESSION (if needed)**
- MISCELLANEOUS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- ADJOURNMENT**

KIMBERLYN KING-HINDS
Chairwoman,
Board of Directors

April 16, 2020

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Location: Beach Road, Garapan

BECQ Lab to resume accepting water samples for analysis

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality's Environmental Surveillance Laboratory would like to inform all Public Water System clients that it will be accepting water

samples for analysis starting April 20, 2020, from 8am to 11am, Monday to Wednesday.

All PWS clients are advised to contact the Environmental Surveillance Laboratory at

664-8520/8542 for instructions on how to submit water samples. If you need assistance, send an email to charitobautista@becq.gov.mp.

The BECQ Environmen-

tal Surveillance Laboratory continues to analyze marine recreational water weekly for Saipan West Beaches, Saipan East beaches, Tinian beaches, and Rota beaches.

BECQ thanks the public for their understanding as the CNMI continues to provide services during this COVID-19 public health emergency. (PR)

Scheduled water service interruptions

There will be a scheduled water service interruption for portions of Gualo Rai today, April 17, 2020, from 8am to 5pm and in portions of As Lito, As Perdido and Koblerville.

In the Gualo Rai water service interruption, it will affect most Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers located along Gualo Rai Road on the west side of the Gualo Rai traffic light. Customers in the affected areas should expect restoration of water services soon after.

The purpose of the scheduled water interruption is to allow CUC's contractor, AIC Marianas Inc., to connect the new 8-inch distribution main to the existing 16-inch main as part of CUC's Gualo Rai Waterline Replacement Project. As a result of the waterline replacement, a more reliable water system will be provided to the community.

In the water service interruptions in portions of As Lito, As Perdido and Koblerville (from St. Jude Church to the ABCD Market in Koblerville), customers in the affected areas will experience low to no water pressure during daily peak hours from 6am to 9am and from 5pm to 9pm.

Over the past two weeks, CUC has performed leak detection in the affected areas to locate possible leak(s) that may be the cause the low to no water trouble calls. Two leaks have been identified and repaired within the last week; however, the pressure in the affected areas did not improve. CUC leak detection team will continue to perform leak detection efforts through next week with the use of correlators to assist in identifying other leaks on Chalan Monsignor Martinez from the As Lito Road intersection to the As Perdido traffic light intersection.

CUC urges customers in these areas to practice water conservation and to contact the CUC Call Center to report leaks for repairs.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates. (PR)

Zoning Office now provides services via phone

The Saipan Zoning Office began providing services via telephone last Wednesday, April 15, 2020, from 7:30am to 11:30am, Monday to Thursday and will be closed on Fridays.

In accordance with the Office of the Governor's Directives to ensure the health and safety of its customers and employees, the Saipan Zoning Office has implemented strict procedures so that there will be no physical contact

between its employees and customers through document exchanges.

All customers are advised to contact the Zoning Office at (670) 234-9661/2/3 for instructions on how to submit your documents for processing.

If you need assistance or require a pre-application screening, send an email to yubert.alepuyo@zoning.gov.mp.

To access zoning applica-

tions online, visit its website at <http://www.zoning.gov.mp> and then select the zoning applications tab.

"Thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue to provide our services during these uncertain times. We are in this together, so let us work as one to ensure COVID-19 does not continue to spread throughout our community," the Zoning Office said in a statement. (PR)

THINGS TO KNOW

As of April 14, 2020. All information may change without prior notice. For corrections and additions to this list, send an email to editor@saipantribune.com or chevy_alipio@saipantribune.com, or call 235-6397 or 235-2440.

Paycheck Protection Program FAQs

The Small Business Administration, in consultation with the U.S. Department of the Treasury, has issued frequently-asked-questions regarding implementation of the Paycheck Protection Program, established by section 1102 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act. Some of those FAQs involve explaining the requirements under the Bank Secrecy Act, and how lenders can meet those requirements when issuing a PPP loan. As the administrator of the BSA, the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network is republishing those FAQs. FinCEN will update this document with any additional BSA-related FAQs involving the PPP. Read the FAQs at <https://www.fincen.gov/news/news-releases/paycheck-protection-program-frequently-asked-questions>.

DCRM UPDATES

■ The Division of Coastal Resources Management provides an update on several programs and plans. See link at www.saipantribune.com. (Use PDF on DCRM Updates for COVID-19)

USDA RESOURCES

■ The U.S. Department of Agriculture implements immediate measures to help rural residents, businesses and communities affected by COVID-19. Read about it at https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/USDA_RD_SA_COVID19_ProgramImmediateActions04082020.pdf.

■ The U.S. Department of Agriculture expands provisions for lenders to offer temporary exceptions to payment deferrals for agency guaranteed loan programs. See full details at <https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/>

[files/USDA_RD_SA_COVID19_Guarantee_Loan_DeferralPayments04082020.pdf](https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/USDA_RD_SA_COVID19_Guarantee_Loan_DeferralPayments04082020.pdf).

WHO UPDATE

■ Advice on the use of masks in the context of COVID-19. See link at www.saipantribune.com.

BANK HOURS

■ Bank of Hawaii: Monday to Friday - 9am to 1pm (Saturdays closed)

■ Bank of Guam Chalan Kanoa: Closed temporarily

■ Bank of Guam Garapan: Monday to Friday - 9am-1pm; Saturday closed

■ First Hawaiian Bank Oleai: Monday to Friday - 9am- 1pm; Saturday closed

■ First Hawaiian Bank Gualo Rai: Monday to Friday - 9am- 1pm; Saturday closed

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

■ USPS Chalan Kanoa: Monday to Friday - 8:30am-4pm; Sat 9am-12pm

■ USPS San Vicente: Monday to Friday - 12pm-5:30pm; Sat 12pm-3pm

SUPERMARKETS

For a list of the status of open and closed stores and those with limited hours, see link at www.saipantribune.com.

RESTAURANTS

For a list of the status of open and closed restaurants and those with limited hours, see link at www.saipantribune.com.

OTHER BUSINESSES:

For a list of their business operations status, see link at www.saipantribune.com.

MEDICAL SERVICES

For a list of the status of open and closed medical services and those with limited hours, see link at www.saipantribune.com.

HOTELS

For a partial list of the status of open and closed hotels and those

with limited hours, see link at www.saipantribune.com.

ONLINE RESOURCES

■ Demystifying the CARES ACT: A primer for businesses. Plus Saipan Chamber of Commerce updates. See <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Demystifying-the-CARES-ACT-and-Local-Updates.html?oid=1129193858340&aid=0EXsNhZzzis>

■ For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>.

■ Commonwealth Health Care Corp. services. See link at www.saipantribune.com.

■ Frequently-asked-questions about direct assistance under CARES Act. See link at www.saipantribune.com.

■ Needing mental health tips? See link at www.saipantribune.com.

■ Announcement about re-opening of boat ramps and docks. See link at www.saipantribune.com.

■ Announcement about re-opening of public beaches and pathways. See link at www.saipantribune.com.

■ Avoid COVID-19 scams: Attorney General Edward Manibusan issues alert of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) scams. See link at www.saipantribune.com.

Settlement Fund office hours

The Settlement Fund office has reduced its service hours to half day. We are still restricting access to the public and will continue to receive and respond to inquiries by phone, fax and email *only* from 8am to 1pm, Monday – Friday. Fund staff will be available to assist members only by telephone, fax, or email. Contact Information for the Settlement Fund: tel: (670) 322-3863; fax: (670) 664-8080; email: info@nmisf.com. (PR)

Source: Compiled by Saipan Tribune/Chevy Alipio

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

April 17, 2000

CNMI protest vs Continental

The Commonwealth Ports Authority on Friday wrote the U.S. Department of Transportation decrying Continental Micronesia's treatment of Saipan and Guam as co-terminals which CNMI officials claimed has adversely impacted CNMI's tourism industry. This is the first formal protest lodged by the CNMI government against the decision of the Continental Micronesia to drop direct international flights to and from the Northern Marianas. In a letter addressed to the federal transportation department, Ports Authority Board Chair Roman S. Palacios said CPA could not rally behind Continental's application to renew its regular flights to Sapporo and Sendai in Japan.

Man in drug case pleads guilty

Another Filipino facing drug charges in the U.S. District Court admitted guilt on Friday to evade stiffer penalties after he was caught in possession of methamphetamine hydrochloride, popularly known as "ice." Jaime F. Maniquiz entered into a plea agreement with the federal prosecutors on charges of conspiracy to import the illicit drugs and possession with intent to distribute. Judge Alex R. Munson accepted the plea and set his sentencing on July 25, the same day his co-accused Eduardo V. Cruz will also face the court for his sentence after pleading guilty last Thursday on the same charges.

April 17, 2005

Decline in Japanese arrivals concerns MVA

Arrivals from Japan continue to suffer from decreased airline seating capacity, according to the Marianas Visitors Authority. MVA data showed that the Northern Marianas received only 32,987 Japanese tourists last month, a 1-percent drop from the same month last year. This was the fourth month since the start of the fiscal year that Japan arrivals registered a decline. "We are concerned with the continued decline on our Japan market, which is our primary source of visitors to the CNMI," said MVA managing director Vicky Benavente. "We are working closely with our travel partners both in Japan and the CNMI as well as the public sector to restore positive growth in visitor arrivals from this market."

No sanctions over cancelled Malite hearing

The Superior Court has denied the request of the Malite estate, the Marianas Public Lands Authority and its officials to impose sanctions against the CNMI government in connection with the last-minute withdrawal of an injunction request on the day it was scheduled for hearing. Associate judge Juan T. Lizama rejected the request for sanctions that totaled more than \$30,000 in costs being assessed by lawyers of the MPLA, its board, commissioner Edward DeLeon Guerrero, and the Malite estate. The scheduled Dec. 23, 2004 hearing on Brown's injunction request did not push through due to her attorneys' withdrawal of that request on the day of the hearing.

April 17, 2006

Tinian denies FAA 'disapproval' of airport ILS

The Tinian Mayor's Office denied yesterday that the Federal Aviation Administration has disapproved its initial planned purchase of a landing instrument system for Tinian International Airport. At the same time, the mayor's office admits that it is now dealing with a different manufacturer, Thales, which sells ILS that is "preferred" by FAA. The local government earlier met with Radiola, a company that sells the Selix ILS system. The mayor's office took exception to the statement of Commonwealth Ports Authority consultant Carlos H. Salas last week, who said that the Radiola's ILS "is not currently supported by FAA."

'Businesses will not be penalized'

The Fitial administration assured businesses yesterday that they would be spared from the government's efforts to correct its financial situation. Press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. said the financial crisis was not created by the private sector, "but by previous mismanagement." Thus, he said, businesses should not be punished by a tax increase or suspension of tax rebates. "It would be unfair to penalize the private sector. This is not their creation," Reyes said. He made this statement in response to a call by some community members for the government to raise tax rates or suspend tax rebates to address the government financial problems. They say that the administration should share the burden with all CNMI residents, rather than "punishing" government employees by cutting their wages.

Bill proposes suspending evictions, foreclosures

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios recently proposed to the Legislature a bill that would suspend evictions and foreclosures in the Commonwealth during the COVID-19 public health emergency and CNMI state of significant emergency.

According to a statement from the Office of the Governor, Torres and Palacios worked on this draft legislation with Attorney General Edward Manibusan, Senate President Victor B. Hocog (R-Saipan), House Speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao (R-Saipan), and Precinct 4 Rep. Joel C. Camacho (R-Saipan), who chairs the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

In his message to the Legis-

lature, Torres underscored the importance of this legislation during this vulnerable time for residents in the Marianas.

“As you know, many residents and businesses have suffered a loss of income as a result of government-or-

dered restrictions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This bill offers some protection from eviction or foreclosure due to the tenant’s or mortgagor’s inability to pay,” said Torres.

He noted the bill takes two steps to prevent evictions and foreclosures.

“First, it prevents landlords and mortgagees from commencing eviction and foreclosure actions by prohibiting them from evicting or foreclosing on a tenant or mortgagor foreclosure based

on nonpayment of the rent or mortgage. Second, in the event the landlord or mortgagee has already obtained a court order prior to the enactment of the law, the bill prevents any person from enforcing a writ of possession or judgment of foreclosure sale,” the governor said.

Accordingly, the bill would restrict evictions and foreclosures at their commencement (the filing of a court action) and at their culmination (enforcement of court-ordered writ of possession or judgment of foreclosure sale). Violation of this law would result in a fine or imprisonment. The Office of the Attorney General would be the lead enforcement agency.

Palacios said the administration and legislative leaders will continue to utilize a whole-of-government approach to protect residents during this unprecedented time.

RELATED NEWS

■ Impairing obligation of contracts is clearly unconstitutional.

PAGE 9



UOG DONATION

The University of Guam bought 2,000 face shields for Guam Memorial Hospital Authority with funds raised during its Livestream Telethon held last week. From left, Margaret Hattori-Uchima, dean of the University of Guam School of Health; and Paula Manzon, registered nurse at Guam Memorial Hospital.

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM



The University of Guam also delivered 48 bottles of hand sanitizer from Bishop Baumgartner Memorial School to GMHA. From left, Brandon Savella, staff nurse; Eduardo Biala Jr., program coordinator; and Alma Siapengco, registered nurse, all with Guam Memorial Hospital.

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM



From left, Carlos Taitano, director of Global Learning & Engagement at UOG; and Guam Memorial Hospital staff Paula Manzon, clinical nurse informatics supervisor; Eduardo Biala Jr., program coordinator; and Alma Siapengco, registered nurse.

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

“This legislation is one of many priorities to protect our community during this global pandemic. In addition to our work on the public health side,

we will do everything we can to push for more assistance and relief for residents with our federal partners, as well as enact local policies to protect

our people from additional uncertainty,” said Palacios. “Governor Torres and I will keep the Marianas updated moving forward.” (PR)

CPA to receive over \$22M airport grants from CARES Act

The Commonwealth Ports Authority will be receiving \$22.8 million as its share under the CARES Act Airport Grant to support continued airport operations. These funds will be used to ensure that CPA’s airports are reliable and safe, support the economy, keep airport workers employed, and keep airport credit ratings stable.

“Back in January when CPA and Gov. Ralph DLG Torres first began their discussion regarding the closure of the ports to contain the spread of COVID-19 into the CNMI, the governor instructed CPA to be proactive and reach out to our federal partners to address the potential economic fallout. Throughout the course of these past several months, CPA has been in direct communication with the [Federal Aviation Administration], documenting the economic impact as a result of the suspension of flights. CPA is thankful for this relief which will allow it to continue to fund operations and service our debt,” stated CPA board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds.

The CARES Act appro-

priated nearly \$10 billion to eligible airports to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus impacts, including support for continuing airport operations.

The CARES Act Airport Grants is aside and separate from the Airport Improvement Program grants. The funding authority divides the \$10 billion into four groups. Group 1 funding allocates \$500 million to increase the federal share to 100% for AIP and supplemental discretionary grants already planned and awarded for fiscal year 2020.

“This is great news because this funding will allow CPA to move forward with our federally funded projects without having to worry about our local matching share that we were preserving for airport operations. CPA is thankful for the strong partnership and continued support from the FAA,” stated CPA executive director Chris Tenorio.

Group 2 funding allocates at least \$7.4 billion for commercial service airports, such as CPA. Group 3 funding allocates up to \$2 billion for pri-

mary commercial airports, and Group 4 funding allocates at least \$100 million for general aviation airports.

In a joint statement, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios thanked both the FAA and the U.S. Department of Transportation for including CPA as a recipient of this available funding. “Maintaining our ability to fund our ports operations during this time is critical to our ability to ensure that we get the necessary supplies in and out of the CNMI for both the general public and our COVID-19 response efforts. As we look past our current situation and into the future, maintaining airport operations is critical to stabilizing and growing our economy when we are ready to open our borders. We would like to extend our appreciation to CPA and our federal partners for continuing to assist the Commonwealth in our ongoing fight against COVID-19 and our efforts to address the economic downturn caused by this pandemic,” they said. (PR)



DUCK BOAT/BUS (AMPHIBIOUS) NOTICE OF AUCTION/BIDDING

1945 GMC DUKW Model: Body Style: Bus/Boat
Color: Changed from Yellow color to Camouflage
Weight: 7816: Cylinder: 6: Capacity: 34 Passengers

For more Information

Please contact Bank of Guam counsel, Robert T. Torres at (670) 234-7859/234-5750.

Email: robert.torres@rttlawgroup.com. Any reasonable bid will be accepted as there is no minimum bid. Bid submissions will be closed at 4 pm on May 15, 2020. Bid(s) opening shall be at 4:30 p.m. on May 15, 2020. Bank of Guam reserves the right to reject any and all offer(s). A “Duck Boat” bid form can be obtained from Bank of Guam through Counsel at Robert T. Torres Attorney at Law, Chalan Kiya P.O. Box 503758 CK Saipan, MP 96950.

Bid Instruction

1. This is a private auction/bidding on behalf of the Bank of Guam. The bidding will be conducted through the Law Office of Robert T. Torres using a written/sealed bid process. However, the Bank reserves the right to reject any and all offers including any offer not determined to be commercially reasonable. Bids may be submitted to the Law Office of Robert T. Torres in Chalan Kiya, Saipan.
2. The Duck Boat/Bus is offered for bid and sale “as is” and without any warranty or guarantee as to fitness for use and each bidder is on notice to research this specialized and particular unit as an amphibious craft and the conditions in which it may be used in the CNMI or in other locations.
3. Inspections: Any person wishing to inspect the unit may contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres to inspect the unit located at Torres Refrigeration on Airport Road.
4. If a bid is accepted, the winning bidder shall tender the full amount upon notice and take delivery. Otherwise the next highest bidder shall be considered. The Bank of Guam reserves the right to cancel the bid and resell/re-auction the unit.
5. The payment for the sales shall be by Cash or Cashier’s Check. Personal checks/company checks are not accepted.
6. All bids are final.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

We need more testing more than we need another round of stimulus spending

After approving a historically large \$2 trillion stimulus package last month, Congress was back at it last week, kicking around a plan to spend more money to help that nation's economy recover from this pandemic. It seems Washington is prepared to spare no expense when it comes to recovery—no expense, that is, except for the one thing that will actually boost public health and morale and get our economy moving again.

More than expanded small business loans or airline bailouts, what we need right now is to know what we're dealing with. We need to stop "shooting in the dark," as U.S. Rep. Colin Allred (D-Texas) described it to us. We need COVID-19 testing on a massive scale.

In the absence of tests, America's plan is essentially passive: quarantine everyone and wait for the curve to peak. But there is a more proactive approach. If we tested for the disease on a much broader scale, we could have a much better idea of who has it, who has already recovered from it, who is a carrier, who might have some immunity to it and where the disease is spreading most.

In military terms, testing could tell us more about our enemy. It could get us to the stage public health officials call "surveillance," where we can watch and contain the disease rather than shelter in place and hope it doesn't show up on our doorstep.

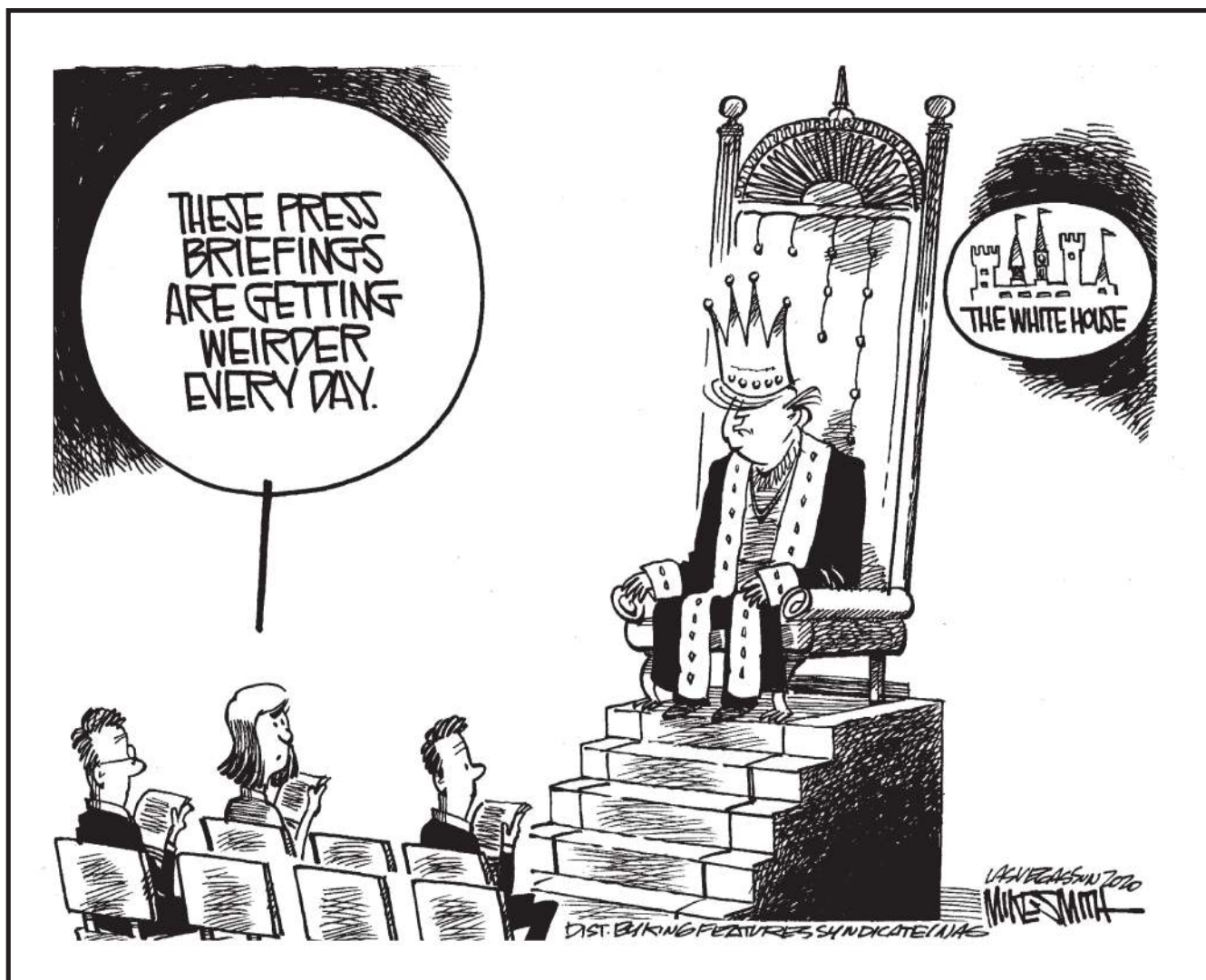
Such an approach would require several things we need from the federal government. It would require leadership to identify a common goal (the right goal) and rally people to the cause. It would require coordination, not contention, with state and local health authorities as well as private sector labs and hospitals. And it would require an awareness campaign on the level of that for the annual flu shot, so that every American who wants a test knows they can get one.

Only once we have testing on demand for all Americans will many Americans feel more comfortable in getting back to something resembling our old way of life.

This is where Washington should be focused. Congress should use its spare-no-expense attitude to push through a bill to fund nationwide testing efforts and awareness campaigns. We need a floor debate about the best path forward to reach a place where testing is not only providing surveillance but also peace of mind for Americans wondering whether they have or have had the virus. President Donald Trump should use his daily press briefings to call for this preferred future rather than to shift blame for mistakes of the past. And private industry should be unfettered as it produces more test kits and pursues treatments and vaccines.

Testing on this scale could give leaders clear and actionable data and give American workers confidence about going back to work when restrictions are lifted. Until we're ready to do this, all our spending will be in an effort to dodge the problem more than solve it.

(c) 2020 The Dallas Morning News



Congress fiddles while the economy burns down

Congress, to its credit and to President Donald Trump's as well, rushed through three increasingly large coronavirus rescue bills, with the third signed into law on March 27. It was an impressive show of emergency action in the face of sincere differences on policy and complicating partisan incentives.

Now ... where's the next bill? Where's the urgency? Congress began serious work on the "Phase 3" bill, which became a \$2.2 trillion law, immediately after agreeing on the Phase 2 bill. But with the economy in full retreat—see the terrible new retail sales and factory output numbers, along with the millions of newly unemployed—no one is acting as if there's a need for speed. Phase 4 needs to be big, fast and simple, but three weeks after Phase 3 was done, it's not happening.

Democrats, at least, are talking about something of the needed scale. Or, I should say, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and a few Senate Democrats are moving toward it, since the members of the House (and the Senate) are still scattered in their districts instead of in Washington where they belong during an emergency. Pelosi is talking about a package of similar size to Phase 3, perhaps in two pieces, and Senate Democrats have a plan to add funding to ramp up testing.

Pelosi continues to do an excellent job of keeping her caucus on the same page, and to their credit Democrats seem eager to try to save the economy even if that helps Trump in November. But there's still no bill, and as things drag on Democrats may be tempted to add their policy wish list to needed pandemic relief and economic stimulus.

The Republican majority started April by explicitly taking a wait-and-see approach, even though it was obvious as soon as Phase 3 passed that it was only a down payment on what would be needed. Then Majority Leader Mitch McConnell switched to playing partisan games. He put just one element of the next bill, new funding for small-business loans, on the Senate floor so he could get Democrats to object to it. (1) That's fine if you want to give up on the economy, and care more about concocting an issue that lets you try to blame the out party for hard times. It's not how the majority party acts if it wants the bill.

Perhaps the bigger problem is that McConnell continues to defer to the White House to negotiate on behalf of Republicans, and the White House doesn't know what it's doing. Going big appeals to Trump; that is good, given the size of the problem. But while he has mentioned the need to renew small-business loan funding, he hasn't been pushing hard for that, and he's hardly

By **JONATHAN BERNSTEIN**
Bloomberg View

Jonathan Bernstein is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering politics and policy. He taught political science at the University of Texas at San Antonio and DePauw University and wrote A Plain Blog About Politics.



mentioned any of the other critical needs, even as he falsely disparages the safety of absentee voting.

Trump still wants a big infrastructure package, which will be great after the current lockdown phase ends but is premature for now. At any rate, wanting a big bill isn't the same as actually putting together a real plan, which Trump and his administration haven't managed to do on any issue in the last three years.

What the president really seems interested in, however, judging from his public comments, is making membership fees for his private clubs and meals for his restaurants tax deductible. To be fair, he's asking to restore tax deductions for food and entertainment for everyone, not just at his personal properties. But it's difficult to see how it has any relevance to the current situation even if it was a good policy overall. Which it probably isn't.

Trump should be desperate for a big, fast and simple bill. Now's a good time to march down to the empty Capitol and demand that Congress return and pass Phase 4 by the end of the week. But he seems far more interested in reading off names of corporate CEOs and whining about how the pandemic is everyone else's fault than in actually doing his job. And without presidential leadership, Congress isn't feeling pressure to act quickly either.

(1) Democrats were bound to object since they want a large package including further direct cash payments, aid for state and local governments, and a program to make sure that the November elections can take place safely and securely, and so even though they support the small-business loan program they fear that Republicans would just pass that and ignore everything else. Democrats may also want to secure other, unrelated, policy goals, but so far their big asks have all been things that relate directly to the pandemic.

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Mattirun Sagu

Maseha ha danche hit sagun coronavirus puede ti machalapun gi enteru atkipetlago pot pipinu` na chenut. Ni mediku ti matuñgu` haf` este na sagu. Dispues tai amot.

I man-namase` i man-amku` piot i mangai chenut korason yan gofes. Mas ke dies mit manpininu` giya America na semana gi mangai idat. Lau i chenut todou ha aminasa kontodu famaguon.

Gi pa`gu, i mas fitme na inadahe i para ta fañaga gi gima`!

Asuntu

I chanda gaige gi 15-mit na empleau ni gumagana suetdun popble. Guaha planun miyu umadelanta suetdun niha? Lokue`, haf` planun miyu pot pagamientun man-ritirau?

Komprendiyun na gai atburotu i asuntu. Lau este `nai humalum abilidadat kabisiyu man-aligau satbasion todou. Kase guaha tautau gi gima` hombre mañiñila` i kandet.

Bisnis

I industrian bisita guine inaminasa ni maribahan numerun finatun ruplanu ginen Honolulu yan Japon. Pa`gu, un` ruplanu mafattu ginen Japon gi semana. Suette` an guaha 40 na pasaheru. Maribaha!

Este na finaposta kumonfitma paskan este na industria piot pa`gu na tiempu. Dididi` na fina` atburotu ya mañaga i bisita gi tanu` niha pot no machansa haf` na sapet pot sagun chenut.

Poresu na mauleg ta atan haf` otu na pisun ekonomia fitme achog halum pagyu! Ha nesessita este kapas yan mehnalun na kabisiyu.

Tinahuñg

Lokue`, siempre u guaha anunsu para empleau PSS na chatsaga subin suetdu pot taya` fondu. I gobietnu lokue` ha anunsia planun maribahan moneda pot menus fiñkas gi kaha.

Pinadesen ha`ilas gi enteru elmundu `nai kontodu hita man-pinalala`e. `An siñku pesus salape`mu ya para un` famahan kostat pugas kase kontra butsiyu i uttimu disposision. Estague` na estau `nai mangaige hit.

Coronavirus

I chenut mañahguan hanum i gofes ya chinema` i tautau huma-guñg regulatmiente estake dimalas.

Ti malimitte i pesti gi man-amku`. Maseha haye siña tinatme. Lau idat yan maliñgun fuetsan hinemlu` man-amku` mina` un`ratutu ha` mantinatme nu este na pesti. Mientras mas mañaga gi gima` mas mauleg para i hinemlu` niha.

Lau gi halum este na chinatsaga ta celebra kinahulu` i Saina gi lañget gi Dameñgon Resureksion. Hana`e hit kampu, esperansa yan inañoghu na ginen bendisioña siempre tasoda` hinanau-ta gi halum homhum yan baraña na chalan.

I Saina i luserun enteru elmundu piot gi halum iran un` pipinu` na sagu `nai solu satbasion i tai achaigua na bendisioña.

SBA statement

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven T. Mnuchin and U.S. Small Business Administration Administrator Jovita Carranza issued the following statement yesterday regarding the Paycheck Protection Program and Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program:

“The SBA has processed more than 14 years’ worth of loans in less than 14 days. The Paycheck Protection Program is saving millions of jobs and helping America’s small businesses make it through this challenging time. The EIDL program is also providing much needed relief to people and businesses.

“By law, the SBA will not be able to issue new loan approvals once the programs experience a lapse in appropriations.

“We urge Congress to appropriate additional funds for the Paycheck Protection Program—a critical and overwhelmingly bipartisan program—at which point we will once again be able to process loan applications, issue loan numbers, and protect millions more paychecks.

“The high demand we have seen underscores the need for hardworking Americans to have access to relief as soon as possible. We want every eligible small business to participate and get the resources they need.”

Ni Unu

Kontodu hita ha hogse maribahan ekonomian elmundu `nai ni unu soplu. Presisu sattun na inadahe gi dididi` na fiñkas-ta.

Hu repara dos na sinisede guine na mattiru: mansilensiu tau-tau-ta gi halum didog na chinatsaga yan dibinan pipinu` na sagu. Ti ayikun na sapet finattun dos attikulu.

Lau guaha konsuelu gi finu` i Saina gi un` estorian biblia `nai ilegña, “Kontodu este u falofan”. Tita tuñgu ñgai`an `nai u na`lu tatte ordinaru ha`anita lau hu añoghu finu` i Saina guine na patte.

Adahe na tirun miserapble na pinepble `nai mamokat-yu` antes. Lau kada losgun-yu` (gi uttimun nina` siñahu) hana`eyu` ni kanaiña para bai kahulu`.

Konfitmasion na guiya i dichu esperanza yan linala` ni dumispopone ha`anita! Felis Pasguan Resureksion!

Pasgua

Puede felis yan namagof hinanau familia gi Pasguan Resureksion—celebrasion kinahulu` Sainata Jesukristu gi lañget—anai ta onra estoriaña kumu uniku na Nanalibreta.

Hu tatiye misan Santo Papa Francisco gi television gi St. Peter’s Basilica. Gai tiempu pot todou fino`ña finu` Latin-Greek ma-translada guatu gi finu` Eñglis.

Hu tuñgu` na lamegai gi familiata manginacha` mattirun maribahan ekonomian i tanu`. Ha nesessita este na chinatsaga kapas na disposision kabisiyu. Guaha tautau gi gima`?

Planu

Hu pepesa haf` na planu guaha pot futtunan famaguon-ta. Lau inipus silensiu i tanu` guine na patte. Entre dañkulu planun niha

Impairing obligation of contracts is clearly unconstitutional

By JOSE S. DELA CRUZ

SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Impairing the obligation of contracts is clearly unconstitutional under both the U.S. and NMI constitutions. The recent proposal of the CNMI governor to suspend contractual obligations and foreclosures is quite shocking coming from the chief executive. Either he has no comprehension of the NMI Constitution, which he swore to uphold and defend when he took his oath of office as governor of the Northern Mariana Islands several years ago; or he is now blinded by the power of his office and thinks that he can dispense of certain provisions of our constitution as he sees fit.

Article I, section 1, of the NMI Constitution, sets forth in very clear language, as follows:

Section 1: Laws Prohibited

No law shall be made that is a bill of attainder, an ex post facto law, a law impairing the obligation of contracts, or a law prohibiting the traditional art of healing. (Emphasis added)

Just as important, the U.S. Constitution, at Article 1, section 10, clause 1, reads (in relevant part) as follows:

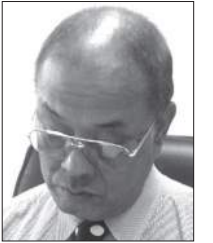
Clause 1. No State shall...pass any Bill of Attainder, ex post facto Law, or Law impairing the Obligation of Contracts... (Emphasis added)

Under both the constitutions, therefore, it is very clear that “no law” mean “no law.” In other words, neither the NMI governor nor the CNMI Legislature has the power to enact law, promulgate regulations, or issue executive orders that clearly impairs the obligations of contracts. Only dictators, totalitarian governments, and monarchies do so in the past (and recently by countries run by strongmen). But America is a democracy governed by a constitution that sets forth the specific powers entrusted to each branch of our government. When our leaders read more than what the Constitution says, then chaos and uncertainty will reign and our democracy will start to weaken and wither.

The CNMI governor and Legislature should think long and hard about passing a law that is clearly unconstitutional on its face and intrudes into the private affairs of businesses and private indi-

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

`sino masauleg “que sera” i asuntu. Siempre tali`e!

Gi hilu` presente na obligasion haf` planun miyu gi todou patte para in` adelanta ha`anen tautau-ta siha guine na petlas? Mandatun konstitusion i asuntu mina` hu pañgun kumu obligasion manma-elihe. Mauleg ta huñgug haf` planun miyu!

Ayudu

Guaha siha na estadu ti nahuñg fasilidat hospitat mina` humalum i federat man-ayuda. Mapetsige pot megai man-tinatme ni sagun coronavirus. Mas ke lamita kontra lina`la` `nai sin ayudun hospitat, mandimalas.

Na mañau na chenut gi katkuet manera. `An taya` presisu para un` diñgu i gima`, bintaha `an sumagau hau. Espiha haf` siña in` chegue kumu familia gi fina`pus ha`ane.

Puede ma`ase` i Saina ya hana` fan soplu hit ginen este na pesti. I hinemlo`ta gaige gi kada unu giya hita. Adahe hinemlo`mu diariamente. Gaige este na disposision giya hagu!

viduals. For example, if a car buyer becomes delinquent in making his/her monthly payment, the car dealer has the right under the terms of the vehicle purchase contract to repossess the car.

The legislation that the governor is proposing is to essentially allow the car buyer to keep the car and not make any payment, presumably until the coronavirus pandemic is over. Are we now under martial law? I hope not, but in stressful situations such as the one we are going through, our political leaders get tempted to do things that are either not well thought out, are outright unlawful under the Constitution or, worse, simply stupid or reveals the hidden incompetence of our political leaders, especially during times of crises.

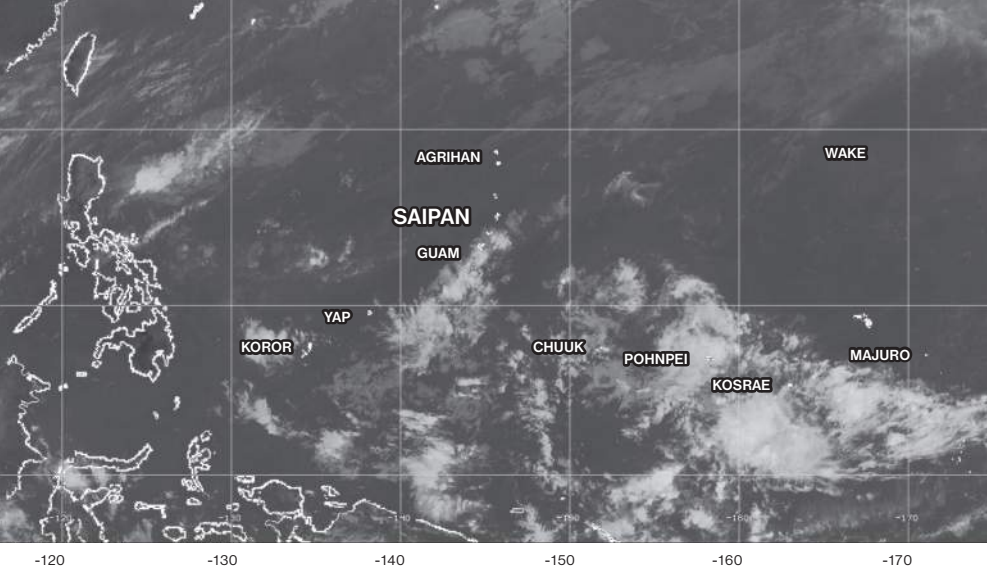
A few years ago, there was a legislative proposal to exempt the Commonwealth Casino Commission from complying with or following the CNMI Open Government Act. That idea was for the Commonwealth Casino Commission and the exclusive casino licensee/operator, Imperial Pacific dba Best Sunshine, to have all of their meetings, papers and documents, and casino operations kept in secret so that the general public will not know what is going on with either the casino operator or the commission. Fortunately this sweetheart legislative measure was defeated and never became law. But the fact that it was even proposed was truly scary for the general public.

The other day, this truly strange legislative proposal—to allow the impairment of private contractual obligations—reared its ugly head. If this is the best idea that our political leaders have for dealing with the coronavirus pandemic, I believe that the people of the Commonwealth should be more afraid of our political leaders than with the coronavirus itself. At least, we know from public health experts, like Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, that in order to reduce the spread of this deadly pandemic, each of us must, at a minimum, stay at least six feet apart, wash our hands with soap and water religiously, and stay at home as much as possible.

Jose S. Dela Cruz is a former chief justice of the CNMI Supreme Court.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
Partly sunny with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.		Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
89°	77°	87°	76°	88°	77°	88°	77°	88°	77°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 7:12 AM, THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2020
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Isolated showers are possible today for the Guam and Rota as a trade wind disturbance moves closer to the islands. Showers off the coast have slowly been moving westward and scattered showers are forecasted for tonight. The 00z sounding shows large amounts of dry air over Guam. This dry air will limit how widespread showers will be this afternoon and make it difficult for thunderstorms to develop.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	88° / 78°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 81°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	86° / 81°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:01 AM	6:31 PM
Saturday	6:00 AM	6:31 PM
Sunday	6:00 AM	6:32 PM
Monday	5:59 AM	6:32 PM
Tuesday	5:59 AM	6:32 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	2:19 AM	1:59 PM	-
Saturday	3:01 AM	2:48 PM	-
Sunday	3:40 AM	3:36 PM	-
Monday	4:16 AM	4:23 PM	-
Tuesday	4:52 AM	5:09 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	70° / 59°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	72° / 52°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	77° / 72°	
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	82° / 70°	
London	Partly Cloudy	61° / 46°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	67° / 55°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	93° / 81°	
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	61° / 48°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	83° / 77°	
New York	Showers	50° / 42°	
Osaka	Rain	66° / 55°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	75° / 57°	
Busan	Mostly Sunny	66° / 50°	
Rome	Partly Cloudy	72° / 52°	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	79° / 62°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	59° / 51°	
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	68° / 45°	
Tokyo	Rain	61° / 52°	
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	63° / 45°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
4:59 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.74	
10:58 AM	LOW TIDE	1.07	
3:30 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.44	
10:28 PM	LOW TIDE	0.29	

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NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

GOVERNMENT RESOURCE LISTING AS OF
APRIL 16, 2020



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

- Cashier & Customer Service**
Monday - Friday
8:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Tel: (670) 664-4282
Pay bills online at www.cucgov.org or via phone by calling toll free 1-(855)-729-2282



Department of Public Works

- Solid Waste Management Division**
 - Lower Base Transfer Station & Marpi Landfill**
Open all week except Wednesday
7:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Tel: (670) 322-2745



Department of Finance

- Division of Revenue & Taxation**
CASHIER ONLY
Monday - Friday
7:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Tel: (670) 664-1000
- Division of Customs Services**
 - Airport:** OPEN DAILY
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
 - Seaport:** Monday - Friday
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
 - Chalan Kanoa Post Office:**
Monday - Friday 7:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Saturday 7:30 AM - 11:30 AM



Department of Public Lands

- CASHIER ONLY
Monday - Thursday
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Tel: (670) 234-3751/52/53/54



Saipan Zoning Office

- Available via phone only
Monday - Thursday
7:30 AM - 11:30 AM
Tel: (670) 234-9661/2/3
Email: yubert.alepuyo@zoning.gov.mp
Call or email for more information



CNMI State Medicaid Agency

- Eligibility staff via phone only
Tuesday - Thursday from 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Tel: (670) 664-4880/4882
Accepting applications and supporting documents via drop-box at Medicaid Office. Medicaid application & renewal/redetermination forms must be original. Applications/forms available for pick up next to the drop-box or online at: www.medicaid.cnmi.mp



Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

- Available via phone or email only on Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays from 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Tel: (670) 322-6537/38
Email: maryann@ovrgov.net



Office of the Attorney General

- Civil & Criminal Divisions**
Monday - Friday
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Tel: (670) 237-7500/7600



Office of the Public Defender

- Monday - Friday
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Tel: (670) 234-6503



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

GOVERNMENT RESOURCE LISTING AS OF
APRIL 16, 2020



Department of Community and Cultural Affairs

- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)**
Accepting Calls From Existing Customers Only
Tel: (670) 287-1475
- Division of Youth Services (DYS) On-Call**
Saipan: (670) 285-2780 / 287-2781 / 287-1773
Tinian: (670) 287-3268
Rota: (670) 287-2553
- Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)**
For inquiries regarding parent eligibility requirements for CCDF Program:
Tel: (670) 783-8571 / (670) 783-8572
Email: dccajguerrero@gmail.com / ccdf.jrosario@gmail.com
- Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture (CCAC)**
For Recovery Arts Grant Application Submissions. Grant Guidelines are available at <http://www.cnmiartscouncil.org>
Tel.: (670) 287-4585
Email: parkeryobei@gmail.com
- Historic Preservation Office (HPO)**
For Processing of Federal 106 Consultations Call
Tel: (670) 789-1986
Email: rchong.cnmihipo@gmail.com



Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP)
Benefit Pick Up: Monday - Friday
8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Application Pick Up: Monday - Friday
8:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Application Submission:
Anytime via Drop-Box

Application Inquiries:
Tel: (670) 237-2801/2802

To download the NAP application and other forms go to dcca.gov.mp
Email: support@cnminap.gov.mp

SOCIAL DISTANCING TO BE IMPLEMENTED AT ALL OFFICES
GOVERNOR'S COVID-19 TASK FORCE HOTLINE TEL: (670) 287-0046
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Business

Evidence of virus' effect on US economy grows more ominous

WASHINGTON (AP)—Evidence of the coronavirus' devastating impact on the U.S. economy has been steadily emerging, and the signs have grown ominous.

Sales at stores and restaurants plunged in March by the largest amount on records dating back to 1992. The nation's industrial output fell by the largest amount since the end of World War II. And the outbreak keeps ravaging the global oil market.

That was just Wednesday's news.

"I've never seen anything like this," said Jennifer Lee, senior economist at BMO Capital Markets. "You don't want to look, but you know you have to."

The picture will likely worsen in the coming weeks and months. Retail sales—a primary driver of the U.S. economy—are almost surely suffering further during April because business shutdowns will have been in effect for the entire month, compared with just half of March.

Sales of homes and cars will also keep declining. And economists have forecast that Thursday's weekly report on

applications for unemployment benefits will show that millions of Americans sought jobless aid last week, on top of the record-high of nearly 17 million who filed in the previous three weeks.

Economists now project a record-shattering 40% annual decline in U.S. economic output for the April-June quarter. While growth is expected to rebound in the second half of the year, economists at JPMorgan Chase have forecast that the U.S. economy will still shrink 7% for 2020 as a whole.

The slowdown will be global. The International Monetary Fund on Tuesday predicted that the world economy would shrink 3% this year, the worst outcome since the Great Depression.

That is hammering oil prices, threatening the solvency of many oil drillers and putting many of their employees out of work. Global demand for oil will fall this year by the most ever due to economic lockdowns around the world, the International Energy Agency said Wednesday. Demand will drop an es-



Cars are parked in an auto dealer lot Wednesday, April 15, 2020, in Green Park, Mo. U.S. retail sales recorded a record drop in March, with auto sales down 25.6%, as the coronavirus outbreak closed down thousands of stores and shoppers stayed home.

timated 9.3 million barrels a day, which is equivalent to a decade's worth of growth.

In the U.S., consumer spending drives more than two-thirds of the economy and was one of the main pillars of support before the virus. Business investment in new plants and equipment had already pulled back in the face of the U.S.-China trade war and falling oil prices.

On Wednesday, the gov-

ernment said U.S. retail sales plummeted 8.7% in March, an unprecedented decline, as the outbreak brought most commerce to a halt.

The deterioration of sales far outpaced the previous record decline of 3.9% that took place during the depths of the Great Recession in November 2008. Auto sales dropped 25.6%, while clothing store sales col-

lapsed, sliding 50.5%. Restaurants and bars reported a nearly 27% fall in revenue.

Spending may be falling at an even faster pace than the retail sales figures suggest. Wednesday's report did not include spending on services such as hotel stays, airline tickets or movie theaters.

Also Wednesday, the U.S. reported that industrial produc-

tion, which includes manufacturing, mines and utilities, posted the biggest drop in March since 1946.

Manufacturing output dropped 6.3% last month, led by plunging production at auto factories that have shut down. Output dropped 3.9% at utilities and 2% at mines as oil and gas drilling plunged.

And builder confidence in the market for new single-family homes has fallen off a cliff, according to an index released Wednesday by the National Association of Home Builders and Wells Fargo. Their monthly housing market index plunged 42 points in April to a reading of 30, the largest single monthly change in the history of the index.

Stimulus checks to bear Trump's name in unprecedented move

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump's name will be printed on the stimulus checks that the IRS will be sending to tens of millions of Americans around the country, an unprecedented move finalized this week.

The Treasury Department confirmed the decision in a statement Wednesday. It marks the first time a president's name has appeared on any IRS payments, whether refund checks or other stimulus checks that have been mailed during past economic crises.

Treasury said that the decision to add Trump's name will not delay issuance of the paper checks, which will be mailed to people who are not set up to receive direct deposit payments from the IRS.

"Economic Impact Payment checks are scheduled to go out on time and exactly as planned — there is no delay whatsoever," Treasury's statement said. "In fact, we expect the first checks to be in the mail early next week, which is well in advance of when the first checks went out in 2008 and well in

advance of initial estimates."

Two administration officials told The Associated Press that "President Donald J. Trump" will appear on the left side in the memo section of the checks. They spoke to the AP on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly about the plans.

The Washington Post, which first reported that Trump's name would appear on the checks, said the name would be below a line that reads, "Economic Impact Payment."

The checks will be mailed to people who do not have information on file with the IRS to allow for direct deposits, many of them low-income individuals.

The checks will carry a signature of an official from the Bureau of the Fiscal Service, the Treasury division that prints the checks. The checks are signed by civil servants to ensure government payments are nonpartisan. A president is not an authorized signer for money sent by the U.S. Treasury.

Earlier this month, Trump

denied wanting to sign the checks when he was asked about published reports stating the opposite.

"No. Me sign? No," Trump said at an April 3 briefing. "There's millions of checks. I'm going to sign them? No. It's a Trump administration initiative. But do I want to sign them? No."

On Wednesday, when he was asked why he wanted his name on the checks, the president said he didn't know too much about it.

"I do understand it's not delaying anything, and I'm satisfied with that," he said, adding that he didn't think it was a big deal.

"I'm sure people will be very happy to get a big, fat, beautiful check and my name is on it," Trump said before cutting off the reporter from asking a follow-up question.

The payments are part of the \$2.2 trillion rescue package signed into law at the end of last month aimed at combating the economic free-fall caused by shutdown orders in the coronavirus pandemic.

Pentagon: \$10B cloud contract that snubbed Amazon was legal

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Pentagon's process for awarding a highly lucrative cloud computing contract to Microsoft instead of Amazon was in line with legal and government purchasing standards, a government watchdog agency said Wednesday.

The Defense Department inspector general found no evidence of White House interference in the contract award process. But the report said investigators could not fully review that aspect of the matter because the White House would not allow unfettered access to witnesses.

The contract, potentially worth \$10 billion, was awarded to Microsoft last October, prompting tech rival Amazon to cry foul.

Amazon Web Services, a market leader in providing cloud computing services, had long been considered a leading candidate to run the Pentagon's Joint Enterprise Defense Infrastructure project, known as JEDI. The

project will store and process vast amounts of classified data, allowing the U.S. military to improve communications with soldiers on the battlefield and use artificial intelligence to speed up its war planning and fighting capabilities.

Amazon sued the Pentagon after Microsoft won the contract. Work on the project has been halted as the lawsuit proceeds.

The judge presiding over the bid protest in the U.S. Court of Federal Claims said in March that Amazon's challenge likely had merit on some technical grounds involving pricing.

The review released Wednesday by the Defense Department's inspector general did not draw a conclusion about whether the Redmond, Washington-based Microsoft Corp. was appropriately declared the winner. Rather, it looked at whether the decision-making process was proper and legal. It also

examined allegations of unethical behavior by Pentagon officials involved in the matter and generally determined that any ethical lapses did not influence the outcome.

The review also sought to determine whether the White House influenced the Pentagon's decision, as Amazon has alleged. The report said that although it appears there was no such White House pressure, the reviewers could not definitely determine the full extent of White House interactions with the Pentagon's decision makers.

"We could not review this matter fully because of the assertion of a 'presidential communications privilege,' which resulted in several DOD witnesses being instructed by the DOD Office of General Counsel not to answer our questions about potential communications between White House and DOD officials about JEDI," the report said.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW 23,504.35 -445.41 1.86%	S&P 2,783.36 -62.70 2.20%	NASDAQ 8,393.18 -122.56 1.44%
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EXCHANGE RATES

Australian Dollar	1.5917	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7502	Russian Ruble	74.6449
British Pound	0.8013	Indian Rupee	75.9295	Singapore Dollar	1.4290
Canadian Dollar	1.4124	Japanese Yen	107.9510	South Korean Won	1200.57
Chinese Yuan	6.9576	Malaysian Ringgit	4.3272	Swiss Franc	0.9672
Euro	0.9198	New Zealand Dollar	1.6808	Taiwan Dollar	29.3907
		Philippine Peso	49.7571	Thailand Baht	32.7100

Nation

LANSING, Mich. (AP)—Thousands of flag-waving, honking protesters drove past the Michigan Capitol on Wednesday to show their displeasure with Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's orders to keep people at home and businesses locked during the coronavirus outbreak.

As snow fell, others got out of their vehicles and raised signs, one of which read, "Gov. Whitmer We Are Not Prisoners." Another said, "Michigan Against Gretchen's Abuses."

Hours later, Whitmer shot back, telling reporters that the rally put health at risk.

The "Operation Gridlock" protest was organized by the Michigan Conservative Coalition. The ripples were widely felt: Traffic was barely moving for miles in some areas of Lansing.

"This arbitrary blanket spread of shutting down businesses, about putting all of these workers out of business, is just a disaster. It's an economic disaster for Michigan," coalition member Meshawn Maddock said. "And people are sick and tired of it."

Whitmer, a Democrat, extended a stay-home order through April 30 and has shut down schools and businesses deemed non-essential. The



Vehicles sit in gridlock during a protest in Lansing, Mich., Wednesday, April 15, 2020.

AP

Thousands protest Michigan governor's SOCIAL DISTANCE ORDER

governor acknowledged the pain but said the restrictions were necessary to stop the spread of the coronavirus, which causes a respiratory illness that has killed more

than 1,900 Michigan residents and overwhelmed hospitals in the Detroit area.

Whitmer said she was "really disappointed" to see protesters close together without masks.

"I saw someone handing out candy to little kids bare-handed," the governor told reporters. "People are flying the Confederate flag, and untold numbers who gassed up on the

way here or grabbed a bite on the way home. We know that this rally endangered people. This kind of activity will put more people at risk and, sadly, it could prolong the amount

of time we have to be in this posture."

During the rally, Republican House Speaker Lee Chatfield, who has urged Whitmer to amend her orders, waved an American flag from a window at his Capitol office.

The protest drew an estimated 3,000 to 4,000 people, about 150 of whom demonstrated on the Capitol steps or main lawn, said Michigan State Police spokeswoman Shanon Banner, who said demonstrators were peaceful. There was an arrest when one protester assaulted another. Police did not ticket anyone for violations of the governor's orders.

"The majority of demonstrators remained in their vehicles, and most of those who were on foot were practicing social distancing," Banner said.

Four sheriffs in the northwestern Lower Peninsula called Whitmer's orders a "vague framework of emergency laws" that are frustrating citizens. Leelanau County Sheriff Mike Borkovich said people don't understand why they can't take a child fishing in a motorboat but they can use a kayak.

"We're trying to keep the peace with people. ... The economy is coming apart in northern Michigan. People are upset," Borkovich told The Associated Press. "People are frantic to get back to work. They have been very edgy."

American schools may look radically different as they reopen

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—School administrators across America are trying to re-imagine classrooms—and the prospect of reopening schools—in the era of social distancing.

Will there be staggered start times? Will students be asked to wear face coverings? Will class sizes be cut in half? What about school assemblies and sports and school buses and lunchtime?

With the majority of schools nationwide shut down, educators are scrambling to plan for the future after a chaotic few weeks that, for many districts, included closing all schools, deciding whether to waive assessment tests and whether and how to do distance learning. Next comes the important question of when schools can safely re-open.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom laid out a few possible scenarios this week for reopening the state's public schools to 6 million students, saying the timeline was still unclear but when students do eventually return things will look radically different.

"We need to get our kids back to school," Newsom said. "And we need to do it in a safe way."

The biggest challenge for schools is how to continue physical distancing among children and adults to ensure that "kids aren't going to school, getting infected and then infecting grandma and grandpa," Newsom said.

That could mean requiring schools to stagger schedules, with some students arriving in the morning and the rest in the afternoon. Officials will be rethinking gym class, recess, school assemblies and all scenarios where students gather in large groups, he said. State officials, educators and unions will discuss those ideas and other possibilities for safe schooling in the coming weeks and months.

Robert Hull, president and chief executive of the National Association of State Boards of Education, said administrators across the country are asking not how, but if, schools will reopen in the fall, and planning for any

number of scenarios.

Everything is being considered, he said, from masks and gloves to cutting class sizes and adding portable classrooms. Officials also are weighing the virus's impact on how school buildings and buses are cleaned, how to protect custodial staff, how food is prepared and how health care is delivered.

"Everybody says we hope we return to normal," Hull said. "It's not going to return to normal anytime soon because the new normal is going to be different."

For the moment, many districts are focused on trying to get through the school year while keeping an eye on what might happen in the fall.

"You're making battle plans," Hull said. Schools need to plan for a variety of possibilities: What if the virus is contained? What if the curve is flattened but there are still infections in the community? What if a new wave is starting? Schools need "not just Plan A and Plan B, but it maybe Plan C and Plan D."

Mayor: Drive-in church, with windows up, OK during pandemic

JACKSON, Miss. (AP)—Facing two freedom-of-religion lawsuits and pushback from the U.S. attorney general, a Mississippi mayor said Wednesday that people may attend drive-in church services during the coronavirus pandemic but they must keep their windows up.

Greenville Mayor Errick D. Simmons also said local churches may allow up to 10 people at a time in a building for worship services that are shown online or carried on TV or radio, as long as those inside the church follow public health guidelines to maintain a safe distance from one another.

Greenville leaders enacted a local order April 7 that said all churches in the city would be closed for in-person and drive-in services as long as Gov. Tate Reeves's statewide stay-at-home order remains in place to combat the spread of the virus. The governor's order does not restrict types of worship.

The day after Greenville leaders set the local order, police issued \$500 tickets to several people attending drive-in

church services. Some who were ticketed said the city was violating their First Amendment right to worship.

Simmons said Monday that the city would not make people pay the \$500 tickets—and he also said he had received death threats over the city's order. The Democratic mayor said he wanted the Republican governor to give clear guidance about how the statewide stay-at-home order affects religious services.

Reeves has said during public appearances in the past two weeks that he does not believe government can ban religious services, but he has also asked pastors and other religious leaders to hold worship services online rather than in person because of the pandemic.

Simmons said Reeves provided clear guidance about worship services Wednesday during a call with mayors.

"The governor stated today ... for the very first time that drive-in church services where families stay in their cars with windows up are safe," Simmons said.

During a news conference Wednesday in Jackson,

Reeves said that Greenville police made people roll down their windows at drive-in church services to be ticketed.

"The actions taken by an over-burdensome government actually put more people at risk," Reeves said.

A conservative legal group called Alliance Defending Freedom filed a federal lawsuit on Friday challenging the Greenville order as unconstitutional. On Tuesday, U.S. Attorney General William Barr took the rare step of filing papers to side with those suing the city. Reeves tweeted thanks to Barr "for this strong stand in support of religious liberty."

A similar lawsuit against the city was filed Wednesday by First Liberty Institute, and it is backed by a group that opposes many government regulations, the Mississippi Justice Institute.

An attorney for First Liberty Institute, Jeremy Dys, issued a statement Wednesday thanking Reeves and Simmons "for recognizing the importance of protecting religious liberty by clarifying that drive-in church services are allowed during this difficult time."

Asia

China didn't warn public of a likely pandemic for 6 key days

In the six days after top Chinese officials secretly determined they likely were facing a pandemic from a new coronavirus, the city of Wuhan at the epicenter of the disease hosted a mass banquet for tens of thousands of people; millions began traveling through for Lunar New Year celebrations.

President Xi Jinping warned the public on the seventh day, Jan. 20. But by that time, more than 3,000 people had been infected during almost a week of public silence, according to internal documents obtained by The Associated Press and expert estimates based on retrospective infection data.

Six days.

That delay from Jan. 14 to Jan. 20 was neither the first mistake made by Chinese officials at all levels in confronting the outbreak, nor the longest lag, as governments around the world have dragged their feet for weeks and even months in addressing the virus.

But the delay by the first country to face the new coronavirus came at a critical time — the beginning of the outbreak. China's attempt to walk a line between alerting the public and avoiding panic set the stage for a pandemic that has infected more than 2 million people and taken more than 133,000 lives.

"This is tremendous," said Zuo-Feng Zhang, an epidemiologist at the University of California, Los Angeles. "If they took action six days earlier, there would have been much fewer patients and medical facilities would have been sufficient. We might have avoided the collapse of Wuhan's medical system."

Other experts noted that the Chinese government may have waited on warning the public to stave off hysteria, and that it did act quickly in private during that time.

But the six-day delay by China's leaders in Beijing came on top of almost two weeks during which the national Center for Disease Control did not register any cases from local officials, internal bulletins obtained by the AP confirm. Yet during that time, from Jan. 5 to Jan. 17, hundreds of patients were appearing in hospitals not just in Wuhan but across the country.

It's uncertain whether it was local officials who failed to report cases or national officials who failed to record them. It's also not clear exactly what officials knew at the time in Wuhan, which only opened back

up last week with restrictions after its quarantine.

But what is clear, experts say, is that China's rigid controls on information, bureaucratic hurdles and a reluctance to send bad news up the chain of command muffled early warnings. The punishment of eight doctors for "rumor-mongering," broadcast on national television on Jan. 2, sent a chill through the city's hospitals.

"Doctors in Wuhan were afraid," said Dali Yang, a professor of Chinese politics at the University of Chicago. "It was truly intimidation of an entire profession."

Without these internal reports, it took the first case outside China, in Thailand on Jan. 13, to galvanize leaders in Beijing into recognizing the possible pandemic before them. It was only then that they launched a nationwide plan to find cases — distributing CDC-sanctioned test kits, easing the criteria for confirming cases and ordering health officials to screen patients. They also instructed officials in Hubei province, where Wuhan is located, to begin temperature checks at transportation hubs and cut down on large public gatherings. And they did it all without telling the public.

The Chinese government has repeatedly denied suppressing information in the early days, saying it immediately reported the outbreak to the World Health Organization.

"Those accusing China of lacking transparency and openness are unfair," foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said Wednesday when asked about the AP story.

The documents show that the head of China's National Health Commission, Ma Xiaowei, laid out a grim assessment of the situation on Jan. 14 in a confidential teleconference with provincial health officials. A memo states that the teleconference was held to convey instructions on the coronavirus from President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Keqiang and Vice Premier Sun Chunlan, but does not specify what those instructions were.

"The epidemic situation is still severe and complex, the most severe challenge since SARS in 2003, and is likely to develop into a major public health event," the memo cites Ma as saying.

The National Health Commission is the top medical agency in the country. In a faxed statement, the Com-

mission said it had organized the teleconference because of the case reported in Thailand and the possibility of the virus spreading during New Year travel. It added that China had published information on the outbreak in an "open, transparent, responsible and timely manner," in accordance with "important instructions" repeatedly issued by President Xi.

The documents come from an anonymous source in the medical field who did not want to be named for fear of retribution. The AP confirmed the contents with two other sources in public health familiar with the teleconference. Some of the memo's contents also appeared in a public notice about the teleconference, stripped of key details and published in February.

Under a section titled "sober understanding of the situation," the memo said that "clustered cases suggest that human-to-human transmission is possible." It singled out the case in Thailand, saying that the situation had "changed significantly" because of the possible spread of the virus abroad.

"With the coming of the Spring Festival, many people will be traveling, and the risk of transmission and spread is high," the memo continued. "All localities must prepare for and respond to a pandemic."

In the memo, Ma demanded officials unite around Xi and made clear that political considerations and social stability were key priorities during the long lead-up to China's two biggest political meetings of the year in March. While the documents do not spell out why Chinese leaders waited six days to make their concerns public, the meetings may be one reason.

"The imperatives for social stability, for not rocking the boat before these important Party congresses is pretty strong," says Daniel Mattingly, a scholar of Chinese politics at Yale. "My guess is, they wanted to let it play out a little more and see what happened."

In response to the teleconference, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention in Beijing initiated the highest-level emergency response internally, level one, on Jan. 15. It assigned top CDC leaders to 14 working groups tasked with getting funds, training health workers, collecting data, doing field investigations and supervising laboratories, an internal CDC notice shows. (AP)

World

Virus choking off needed supply of food for Africa

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)—In a pre-dawn raid in food-starved Zimbabwe, police enforcing a coronavirus lockdown confiscated and destroyed 3 tons of fresh fruit and vegetables by setting fire to it. Wielding batons, they scattered a group of rural farmers who had traveled overnight, breaking restrictions on movement to bring the precious produce to one of the country's busiest markets.

The food burned as the farmers went home empty-handed, a stupefying moment for a country and a continent where food is in critically short supply.

It was an extreme example of how lockdowns to slow the spread of the coronavirus may be choking Africa's already-vulnerable food supply.

Lockdowns in at least 33 of Africa's 54 countries have blocked farmers from getting food to markets and threatened deliveries of food assistance to rural populations. Many informal markets where millions buy their food are shut.

About one in every five people in Africa, nearly 250 million, already didn't have enough food before the virus outbreak, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization. A quarter of the population in sub-Saharan Africa is undernourished.

"This is double any other region," said Sean Granville-Ross, director for Africa at the aid agency Mercy Corps.

France urging top powers to endorse UN virus cease-fire call

PARIS (AP)—French President Emmanuel Macron says he hopes that "in the coming days" the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council can discuss and endorse U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' call for a cease-fire to all conflicts in the world in order to tackle the coronavirus pandemic.

Macron, who has been pushing for more international cooperation in fighting the virus, said in an interview with French radio RFI broadcast on Wednesday that he is only waiting for agreement from Russian President Vladimir Putin to hold the 5-country video conference.

China's "President Xi Jinping confirmed to me he agrees. (U.S.) President



In this March 24, 2020, file photo, a street trader sells cabbages by the side of the road, after the government ordered the closure of the main open air market, in the Mathare slum, or informal settlement, of Nairobi, Kenya.

"With lockdowns, border closures and the ability to access food curtailed, the impact of COVID-19 on Africa could be like nothing we have seen before."

Lockdowns without provisions to help the poor "may affect us very, very much," said Lola Castro, regional director in southern Africa for the U.N. World Food Program.

The Kibera slum in Kenya's capital, Nairobi, is at a breaking point already. Last week, thousands of desperate people scrambled for food aid at a distribution point, causing a stampede.

The World Food Program was already feeding millions in Africa, mainly rural people, due to a myriad of disasters: Floods, drought, armed conflict, government failures, even plagues of locusts. The pandemic has added another layer of hardship.

Take Sudan, where restric-

tions to combat the virus are hampering aid workers from reaching some of the 9.2 million people in need, according to the U.N.

The most severe drought in decades is already threatening about 45 million people with hunger across southern Africa, where farmers are still recovering from two devastating cyclones that battered Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi last year.

Somalia, one of the world's most fragile countries, is struggling to get food to people living in extremist-controlled areas. Two months ago it declared a national emergency over an outbreak of desert locusts that devoured tens of thousands of hectares of crops and pastures. That left 20 million people with dire food shortages in East Africa. Now the locusts are back, more of them this time.

(Donald) Trump confirmed to me he agrees. (British) Prime Minister Boris Johnson confirmed to me he agrees," Macron said. "I think President Putin will agree too."

"When he does, we can have this video conference and therefore endorse it (Guterres' call) with great solemnity, strength, and even more efficiency," the French president said.

Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Tuesday, when asked about a video-conference of the so-called P-5 leaders, "we do not rule it out." He stressed that a video conference cannot substitute for an in-person summit of the five leaders, whose countries have veto-power in the 15-member Security Council.

"There is an agreement of principle for this event (an in-person summit) to focus on a large-scale, major analysis of global developments in all areas that one way or another bear on people's safety and strategic stability," Lavrov told reporters during a conference call.

Guterres said on April 3 that warring parties in 11 countries had responded positively to his March 23 appeal—Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Colombia, Libya, Myanmar, the Philippines, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Ukraine and Yemen have also expressed their acceptance. But he warned that turning words into peace will be enormously difficult.

Off the Wall

Florida judge to lawyers: Get out of bed, get dressed for Zoom hearings

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP)—A Florida judge has one request for attorneys showing up for court hearings via Zoom: Get out of bed and put on some clothes!

Broward Circuit Judge Dennis Bailey made the plea in a letter published by the Weston Bar Association, news outlets reported.

"It is remarkable how many ATTORNEYS appear inappropriately on camera," Bailey said in the letter. "One male lawyer appeared shirtless and one fe-

male attorney appeared still in bed, still under the covers."

Bailey isn't making any exceptions for lawyers lounging in the Florida sunshine, either.

"Putting on a beach cover-up won't cover up you're poolside in a bathing suit," he wrote.

Since courthouses shut down on March 16 to help slow the coronavirus pandemic, Broward County's judicial system has held about 1,200 Zoom meetings involving some 14,000 participants, WPLG-TV reported.

Bailey, for one, said he won't hold a complicated trial over the video conferencing site, given the technology's shortcomings.

"Often, lawyers are not looking at their screens but down at their files, their outlines and notes, or simply out the window, and cannot see the judge is hollering 'Stop! Stop!' because an objection has been made and the audio stays with the witness rather than obeying the judge," he said.

Beach trash finds: Full pickle jar, vape pods, cremation bag

SANDY HOOK, N.J. (AP)—As New Jersey's beaches go, so goes the state of the environment.

Items plucked from the sand during spring and fall cleanups each year help illustrate trends going on in the state and the nation, and last year was a particularly good example.

Empty cartridges used with electronic cigarettes, known as "vaping pods," are showing up in increasing numbers as

vaping continues to grow, particularly among young people.

But some encouraging trends are emerging as well. Although there are still too many of them on the sand, plastic bags, straws, coffee stirrers and balloons are all becoming less prevalent on beaches, due in large part to laws in a growing number of communities outlawing or restricting them.

And this being New Jersey, no beach sweep report

would be complete without a vast array of flotsam and jetsam ranging from the risqué to the revolting.

Some of the items found on the beaches included boxer shorts, a turkey baster, plastic vampire teeth, a coconut, an onion, a full jar of pickles, a credit and a debit card and a pregnancy test.

Then there was the empty bag that had held cremated human remains that was discovered in Keyport.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

New England Toy company creates Dr. Fauci plush doll

SIMSBURY, Conn. (AP)—The nation's top infectious disease specialist is getting a plush doll made in his likeness. Simsbury-based New England Toy, which makes custom plush bears and other toys, has created a 12-inch version of Dr. Anthony Fauci, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases who has often appeared with President Trump at media briefings during the COVID-19 pandemic. The doll sells for \$25 and the company says \$5 from each sale will go to a COVID-19 charity. Company founder Josh Livingston told The Hartford Courant he sees Dr. Fauci as a hero. "I'm very inspired by him," he said. "I just love his no-nonsense approach and how he speaks the truth, whether it's something you want to hear or you don't." The National Bobblehead Hall of Fame and Museum in Milwaukee earlier this month announced it would be selling a \$25 Dr. Fauci bobblehead doll, with some of the funds going to provide personal protective gear for health care workers. Fauci's face also appears on socks. And a Rochester, New York, shop is selling doughnuts with his face, surrounded by white frosting and topped off with red, white and blue sprinkles.

Healthy baby elephant born at Reid Park Zoo in Tucson

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP)—Officials at Reid Park Zoo in Tucson are celebrating the birth of a baby elephant. Zoo officials say the baby was born Monday to Semba, a 30-year-old African elephant, and that it weighed nearly 300 pounds (131 kilograms) after 22 months of gestation. Of-

ficials described the baby elephant as "healthy, standing and nursing." The baby wasn't given a name immediately. Semba has given birth before but zoo officials said during her pregnancy that she was being closely monitored through physical exams, blood work and ultrasounds. Dr. Sue Tygielski, the zoo's director of zoological operations, said Semba's labor went smoothly and that there were no complications. The new calf expands the zoo's elephant herd to six, including the baby's parents, two older siblings and an adult female. The zoo is currently closed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Man accused of pointing gun at a waving Easter Bunny

A 49-year-old man was arrested Wednesday afternoon in Middlebourne, The Daily Jeffersonian reported. He was given a breath-alcohol test at an Ohio State Highway Patrol post but was taken to a medical facility when jail officials refused to book him because of an elevated temperature, leading to concerns he might be infected with the coronavirus. Guernsey County Sgt. Jason Best on Friday said the man could face charges of aggravated menacing and improper handling of a firearm in a vehicle. Deputies found the suspect and another man sitting inside a camouflage-painted pickup truck parked at the edge of a field shortly after receiving a call about the Easter Bunny threat over Interstate 70. A .22-caliber handgun and an open 12-pack of beer were seized as evidence. Deputies said the man slurred his words and smelled of alcohol. Middlebourne is about 95 miles (150 kilometers) east of Columbus.

Science & Technology

How to make video calls on PC or Mac

Try using free video-calling services to contact the people you know. Some of the best-known are Skype, Zoom and Facebook Messenger. These services have taken off in recent weeks because of the stay-at-home orders to prevent coronavirus. If you are still catching up, here's how to use them:

Facebook Messenger

Facebook Messenger is probably the easiest service to use, but you and the people you call will need free Facebook accounts in order to use it. (To sign up for a Facebook account, go to the internet address tinyurl.com/yx7d67za). Once you're on Facebook, you can video call other members one at a time or in groups of up to 50.

There are two ways to make Facebook Messenger video calls: By going to Facebook.com (which works for all computers.) Or by downloading a new Messenger app for Macs (works on nearly all Macs, get it at tinyurl.com/segvcb) or for PC (works on only Windows 10, get it at tinyurl.com/uvf6tu3).

I recommend the first method, but be sure you use either the Google Chrome or Opera browser. Sign in at Facebook.com. Run your cursor over the icons at upper right until you find the one that flashes the name "messages" (it looks like a "talk balloon" in a cartoon.) Click it and you will see a list of messages you have received from other Facebook members.

At the bottom of the list, click "see all in Messenger." You will be taken to a new screen that says "chats" at upper left. In the search box below "chats," type the name of the Facebook member you want to video-call. That person's name will show up under "Contacts" below the search box. Click the name in Contacts; that will cause the person's name to appear at the top of the screen.

At the top right of the screen, click the icon that looks like a movie camera. You will now be connected in a video call. (On your first call, you will have to go through two additional screens that test your camera and microphone.)

Note that the person you call must have Facebook open and click "answer" when your call arrives. On the first call, he or she may be asked to let Facebook and the browser access the computer's microphone and camera. (If there's still no picture, he or she should click on a camera icon with a line through it.)

To end the call, click the red button on the screen.

Zoom

Zoom is easy to use, and has become quite popular in the past few weeks. The free version allows you to call one friend for an unlimited amount of time, or to call three or more friends at once for up to 40 minutes. It works best with Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox browsers.

Zoom has had some problems that could have been avoided. One of Zoom's optional features, which allows you to record a video call so you can view it later, became controversial when hackers stole private video calls that consumers had recorded and stored online. To avoid this problem, never push the "record" button on the screen, and ask your friends to do the same (for more safety tips, see tinyurl.com/r9bxok3).

On a PC or Mac, you can make a call either through the website (zoom.us/join) or by downloading an app (see tinyurl.com/j8zfca3). The app seems to work better, so I will focus on that.

When the app starts, click "sign in." You can set up a new account, or you can sign in as a user of Zoom, Google or Facebook. As part of the sign-in, you will be asked to "create account." Clicking yes, triggers a message saying

"Open Zoom? Zoom.us wants to open this application." Click "Open Zoom."

The next screen contains four buttons labeled "new meeting," "join," "schedule," and "share screen." Choose "new meeting," and you will see yourself on the screen. At the bottom of the screen, click the icon labeled "invite." On the next screen, choose "e-mail." You will be asked whether to send the invitation via Gmail, Yahoo Mail or "default e-mail" (if you use a PC-based mail program such as Outlook, it is the "default e-mail.")

When you sign in to the e-mail program you have selected, Zoom creates a new outgoing message containing directions on how to join the video call—what website to go to, and, once there, what meeting ID and password to type in. Type your friend's e-mail address into the "to" field and click send.

When your friend follows the e-mailed directions, he or she will be asked whether to join the meeting with or without video—the right choice is video. You will then get a message saying your friend has entered the "waiting room." Click "admit" and your video call will begin. To end the call, click "end meeting" at the lower right of the screen.

Skype

Skype is a well-known name in video calling because it has been available since 2003. A single video call can include up to 50 people.

You will need to download the Skype app for either Windows or Mac (see tinyurl.com/y353myl2). The Skype for Windows app works on Windows 8.1 and 10. Skype for Mac requires Mac OS X 10.10 or newer. For reasons that aren't clear, the app seems to work better if you sign in with a free Microsoft account (you can create a free account at tinyurl.com/yd2mmwam).

Once you have signed in, you will be on

TECH Q&A

By **STEVE ALEXANDER**

Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.



Skype's main screen. Now go to the left of the screen and click "meet now." You will then see your own face on the screen. To the left of your picture is a Web address that starts out "join.skype.com" and is followed by letters and numbers. Click that address, and below it you will see the message "link copied."

Normally, Skype would e-mail this link to the friend you want to call, and that person would go to the Web address contained in the e-mail to connect to your video call. But Skype's e-mail function isn't that reliable, so go to your own e-mail account, paste the Skype link into an e-mail and send it to your friend.

Now, to the left of your picture on the screen, click "start call." You will be the only person on the call until your friend goes to the website listed in the e-mail and clicks "join conversation." When you're notified that your friend is on the call, you should "answer" by clicking the phone icon at the top right of the screen. Then click the video icon at the bottom of your screen so that the other person can see you. To end the call, click the red phone icon at the bottom of the screen.

Others

If you would like to try other video-calling services, there are several to choose from (see tinyurl.com/wmz82sg and tinyurl.com/qs9p3hz).

Life & Style



In this April 15, 2019, file photo, the Notre Dame Cathedral burns in Paris.

A year after blaze, Notre Dame restoration halted by virus

PARIS (AP)—Notre Dame Cathedral stands crippled and alone, locked in a dangerous web of warped scaffolding one year after a cataclysmic fire gutted its interior, toppled its famous spire and horrified the world.

Some of the 40,000 metal bars—erected for an earlier renovation project—melted in the intense blaze on April 15, 2019. The unstable scaffolding now endangers the Gothic jewel that for many embodies the soul of France.

The restoration of the landmark from the 12th and 13th centuries has been halted and the workers sent home because of France's coronavirus lockdown that began March 17, thwarting plans to start removing the 250 tons of scaffolding.

So even Notre Dame has been left in isolation by the pandemic that has affected so many people across France.

The 13-ton bell in the south tower, named Emmanuel, that traditionally rings on solemn occasions will sound at 8 p.m. Wednesday, joining the nightly rounds of applause for over-stretched health workers.

On Good Friday, Paris Archbishop Michel Aupetit led an exceptional but tiny gathering inside the church, at the foot of the huge golden cross that remains intact.

"Today, we stand in this half-fallen cathedral to say that life is still here," Aupetit said in the televised ceremony.

The gathering in the fragile church was meant to raise the

spirits of a nation in distress.

"The message of hope is especially important for our compatriots at a time when we are particularly affected by the coronavirus, which is sowing anguish and death," the archbishop told reporters.

There was no Easter service and no formal plans to mark the anniversary of the fire. But the musicians of Notre Dame have created a virtual homage to their beloved cathedral with a performance from their homes of an extract of J.S. Bach's "St. John Passion."

"As long as we have this scaffolding around, there's still sort of a 50% chance that more damage can be (caused) to the cathedral," said Notre Dame chaplain Brice de Mal-

herbe, who last year was evacuated from his home next door as flames engulfed the roof.

He recalled his worst moment that night: "When one had the impression that the fire was (subsiding) and suddenly it resumed in one of the towers."

Yet, Notre Dame remained standing, still surveying the French capital from the island in the Seine, its two familiar bell towers partially eaten from within by flames but their heavy stones apparently only blackened on the outside.

French President Emmanuel Macron reiterated Wednesday his desire to see the cathedral reopen its giant doors in time for the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris.

"We will do everything to

keep this deadline," he said in a tweeted video, thanking firefighters and rescue workers for extinguishing the blaze and saving lives.

Notre Dame "is a symbol of our resilience, our capacity to overcome challenges and stand aright," Macron said.

But progress has been delayed by setbacks, from the discovery of toxic dust from the melted lead roof and spire to the health and safety demands of the pandemic.

Officials hope the scaffolding can be removed by the fall. Then, stones must be analyzed to see which need to be replaced. Debris and huge ancient beams that burned like kindling must be cleared from the soaring vaults, Malherbe said. An umbrella structure will then be built to protect the site, which is now surrounded by high barricades.

For one fervent devotee of Notre Dame, the barricades, which replaced a smaller barrier, symbolize her loss, and the virus spreading across France and the world.

"Notre Dame is confined. I couldn't throw a bouquet of flowers over to her," said Cecile Deleville, who had tossed

one over the lower fencing in December. "It's as though they took that away, too."

The 67-year-old retiree dared to take her first look at the cathedral a day after the fire, along with reporters from The Associated Press. She said at the time that she felt like an orphan.

Now, she fears she won't see Notre Dame reborn in her lifetime. Deleville worries that the reconstruction will fall by the wayside as France tries to rebuild its economy once the virus crisis has been overcome.

Those in charge of returning Notre Dame to its original splendor are still at work, despite being locked down.

The cathedral "has been gravely injured, undeniably so," Jean-Louis Georgelin, a retired army general appointed by Macron to head the restoration project, said in an interview with the Catholic publication *Le Pelerin*.

But it has resisted thermal shock from the fire, water from hoses that drenched it for days, the summer heat and high winds, he said, adding that sensors installed to read any movement of the structure have picked up nothing notable.

Son won't accept mom's new relationship with old friend

DEAR ABBY: I was married for more than 20 years and am recently divorced. I should have done it years ago, but my son, "Nicky," begged me not to. He's 22.

I am now dating a gentleman, "Clyde," and am very happy to be in this relationship. Clyde treats me like a queen. I have known him longer than I've known my ex-husband. He and his family (including his ex-wife) are close friends.

Before we started dating, Clyde called my ex, told him we were going to start seeing each other and that he wanted my ex to hear it from him, not through the rumor mill. My ex said he was fine with it and thanked him for letting him know.

We then informed Clyde's kids and my son. Everyone was fine with it except Nicky. He's upset that we started dating three months after my divorce. Mind you, my marriage to Nicky's father was over years ago. Clyde had nothing to do with it. Now my son has an "attitude" with Clyde. He hardly speaks to him and never spends time with us.

I have always been there for Nicky. His actions hurt. He can't seem to accept that I'm happy and that Clyde and I are more than friends now. Before we started dating, Nicky and Clyde had a good relationship. How do I get my son to come around?

SECOND CHANCE IN MICHIGAN

DEAR SECOND CHANCE: Nicky may be hoping that you and his father might one day reconcile and regard Clyde as an interloper. Explain to him that the divorce may seem recent to him, but for you and his dad, it was the final step in disengaging from a marriage that had been over for years. Tell him you love him and are sorry he is upset, but it's no excuse for treating Clyde badly, and you expect him to treat Clyde with respect, if not affection. Then go on and enjoy your life because you deserve it.

DEAR ABBY: My children attend a school where they are in three different buildings. One is in high school, one in middle school and the youngest is in elementary. Recently, the married elementary school principal had an affair with a married teacher's assistant. A few years before, the married middle school principal had an affair with a married teacher.

My concern is that the administration knows this but does nothing about it. I have addressed them with my concerns. I believe there was an abuse of power. If they are willing to sweep this under the rug, what else have they swept? Should I mind my own business or pursue the issue further?

MOM ON PATROL IN NEW YORK

DEAR MOM: Because of the litigious environment we

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

live in, many businesses and educational institutions have policies that discourage fraternization. What you consider an abuse of power may be a relationship between consenting adults. You say you have brought this to the attention of school administration. I think you have done enough. From now on, stay out of this unless you have absolute proof there is coercion involved.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	39 Drunkard spots	2 He loved Lucy	25 Cager Archibald
1 NFL six-pointers	40 TV spots	3 Punch	26 Serb or Croat
4 Rebuff	41 Roman orator	4 Treeless tract	27 Ballet attire
8 Corp. leaders	45 Mad-houses	5 More pleasant	28 Skater's leap
12 Seminary subj.	48 Circular file	6 Actress Merkel	29 Actor McShane
13 Ex-Yankee	50 Redact	7 Parched	32 Dr. Frankenstein's creation
14 Enlist again	51 Brontë heroine	8 Sing like Sinatra	33 Gate fastener
15 Confident words	52 Tolkien monster	9 "A mouse!"	35 Bankroll
17 Gumbo need	53 Takeout order?	10 Wilder's "— Town"	36 Ready for action
18 Galoot	54 Clarinet insert	11 Resort	38 Social group
19 Conceit	55 Formerly known as	16 Mountain chain	39 Frighten
21 "Fresh Air" airer	DOWN	20 Gloomy guy	42 Nobel Prize subj.
22 — Hines (cake mix brand)	1 Chicago paper, briefly	23 IRS employees	43 Scarce
26 Play place		24 Admin. aide	44 As soon as
29 Apr. check casher			45 Last letter in London
30 Unpaid TV promo			46 Praise in verse
31 Elegance			47 Squeak stopper
32 Spring month			49 Reuben bread
33 Endure			
34 Devoured			
35 Triumphed			
36 Stickum			
37 Roman god of fire			

Solution time: 21 mins.

P	I	L	E	B	O	D	S	P	F	C
I	R	A	N	R	A	V	I	O	O	H
P	O	S	T	C	A	R	D	S	S	H
E	N	T	R	E	E	A	Z	T	E	C
L	A	P	P	A	N	A	N	O	S	V
A	D	O	A	P	T	N	E	E		
W	A	S	P	I	T	O	M	F	F	T
I	E	A	M	S	H	E				
L	A	M	P	S	S	U	N	L	I	T
I	F	A	P	O	S	T	H	A	S	T
M	A	R	E	D	I	E	C	A	T	E
C	L	K	N	E	A	P	E	T	O	N

Yesterday's answer 4-17

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13					14		
15			16					17		
18						19	20			
21						22		23	24	25
26	27	28				29			30	
31						32			33	
34				35				36		
37			38				39			
40							41		42	43
44									45	46
47							48	49		
50							51			52
53							54			55

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Rooney Mara, 35; Jennifer Garner, 48; Liz Phair, 53; Sean Bean, 61.

Happy Birthday: Aim for a simple, affordable lifestyle that will result in less stress and fewer responsibilities. Don't feel you have to do something to keep up with a friend or appease someone pushing you to participate in something you don't want to do. Focus on goals that will encourage greater stability and security. Personal gains are within reach. Your numbers are 6, 14, 25, 27, 30, 33, 49.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Honesty and integrity matter. Whether it's you or someone you are dealing with, be upfront and, when in doubt, ask questions. Personal training, physical fitness and better health should be your goal. Romance will enhance your life. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Look at the big picture before you decide to make a change. You'll face interference if you share too much personal information. Gather information, and it will put you in a stronger position when asked to make a decision. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Offer suggestions, do what you do best and take action once you commit to your plan. What you accomplish today will be life-altering. Discipline and hard work will pay off. Celebrate your success with someone you love. Romance is on the rise. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Do what makes you happy. A creative project that takes your mind off situations that aren't going your way will give you the break required

to gain perspective regarding how best to deal with the changes taking place. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Speak up, share your thoughts and feelings, and find out where you stand. Use your charm and experience to handle people who are putting pressure on you to do things you don't want to do. Make personal gains, romance and money your priorities. ★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Choose to spend time with the people who inspire you to have fun. Mixing business with pleasure will encourage deals that you want to close. A change of scenery will motivate you to do things differently. Be open to suggestions. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Be careful how you handle loved ones and your money. Don't get involved in lofty pastimes that are costly or indulgent. Stipulate what you can do to avoid stressful situations. Personal improvements and romance will bring the highest returns. ★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Slow down, and take a moment to reevaluate your position, lifestyle and relationships. Make a change if you feel stressed and anxious. It's up to you to put an end to what you don't want in your life. Follow your heart. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Emotional manipulation is apparent. Whether it's you trying to avoid something or someone, or someone offering you false information, it's time to take an honest look at your life and decide what you want to do next. ★★

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

								1		
5								3		
4			1	9				6	8	
		9		5						
1				8						2
				6			8			
7	3			2	5					4
9								7		
6										

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

4/17

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

3	7	8	2	5	9	4	6	1
4	9	6	1	7	8	2	5	3
2	1	5	6	3	4	7	8	9
7	6	2	4	8	1	9	3	5
8	3	9	7	6	5	1	4	2
1	5	4	3	9	2	6	7	8
9	4	3	5	2	6	8	1	7
5	8	1	9	4	7	3	2	6
6	2	7	8	1	3	5	9	4

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Remember the good times, but don't try to go back in time. It's what you do moving forward that will have the most significant impact on your life. Don't limit what you can do because you are afraid to let go of the past. ★★★



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't let a change someone makes cause uncertainty. Proceed with your plans, and refuse to let anyone stand between you and what you want. A personal change will lift your spirits and give you a new lease on life. ★★★



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Expand your interests; do something unique. Handle situations carefully. Take a minimalist approach to helping others. Offer suggestions, not your cash or time. You owe it to yourself to focus on what will help you achieve the most. ★★★

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, caring and original. You are determined and supportive.

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

WHAT THAT KNIFE

Solution: 3 letters

S	S	E	L	B	U	O	D	E	D	A	O	L	C	E
E	H	B	A	L	A	N	C	E	T	A	P	E	R	L
H	A	A	T	N	U	L	B	L	A	D	E	O	D	G
C	V	R	R	O	H	U	O	R	U	Z	I	D	N	
T	E	E	P	P	A	L	I	G	N	A	C	I	I	I
A	D	M	P	R	E	S	S	U	R	E	A	L	R	S
R	O	O	A	H	N	T	M	D	M	G	A	E	E	
C	T	V	G	S	H	O	I	H	O	N	E	T	C	L
S	N	A	I	N	O	S	A	N	I	O	E	E	T	C
W	I	L	S	L	I	N	D	T	G	D	T	M	I	I
I	O	T	E	H	G	B	T	O	N	E	L	H	O	T
P	P	E	S	L	I	U	B	W	E	A	P	O	N	R
E	T	A	E	R	C	N	B	U	R	N	I	S	H	A
S	L	I	C	E	T	C	E	R	R	O	C	H	O	P
S	E	K	O	R	T	S	E	D	I	S	H	R	E	D

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4/17

Align, Angle, Balance, Blade, Blunt, Burnish, Chop, Compound, Correct, Create, Cutting, Diamond, Dice, Direction, Double, Drag, Hold, Hone, Loaded, Mend, Metal, Particles, Point, Polish, Pressure, Razor, Removal, Rough, Rubbing, Scratches, Shape, Sharpening, Shaved, Shine, Shred, Sides, Single, Slash, Slice, Smooth, Steel, Strokes, Taper, Tone, Tool, Weapon, Wipe

Yesterday's Answer: Ecological

Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand.

Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6483.

Goff says Rams losing Gurley, Cooks was 'super tough'



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jared Goff knows his job got a whole lot tougher when Todd Gurley and Brandin Cooks left the Los Angeles Rams.

His disappointment also stretches beyond the field.

"It's always super tough to lose friends or teammates," Goff said Wednesday. "That's part of the business. I'm in Year Five now, and I'm kind of getting numb to it a little bit. At the same time, me and Brandin and Todd are extremely close, and always will be."

Despite the obvious setback to the Rams' short-term success, the quarterback is processing their personnel changes with his usual confidence and calm. He's also focusing on the potential upside of change when the Rams and the NFL finally get back to work.

"We'll be just fine," Goff said. "Nothing to worry about. I mean, we've got a lot of work to do, (but) it's only April right now, and we're going to work through this offseason and let's see what comes of it due to the coronavirus, but it's how the game goes. Teams make changes all the time, and we're going to find other contributors."

Gurley was released on March 19 before Cooks was traded last Friday, leaving the Rams without their franchise running back and their top deep threat. Goff has been handing off to Gurley for the quarterback's entire four-year career, while Cooks was an integral part of LA's passing game for the last two seasons.

Los Angeles also didn't sign any offensive contributors during free agency, instead only re-signing offensive line starters Andrew Whitworth and Austin Blythe. Yet Goff is quick to point out that everybody else who played significant snaps for the Rams last season—including the entire offensive line—is returning to an offense in its fourth season under coach Sean McVay.

Goff sees that continuity as an advantage in a season that could be played under unprecedented circumstances, including the offseason workouts that won't be happening.

"It'll be somewhat seamless for us to not be on the field during this time," Goff said. "I could imagine it's harder for teams that are installing a new offense, whereas for us, we're going into Year Four with Sean, and really everyone knows what we're doing at this point."

Since they didn't sign anyone new, Goff believes the Rams' plan is to promote backups to bigger roles, particularly receiver Josh Reynolds and running backs Dar-



In this Dec. 29, 2019 file photo, Los Angeles Rams quarterback Jared Goff gestures during their game against the Arizona Cardinals in the first half of an NFL match in Los Angeles.

by working out, watching old Tiger Woods performances on television with his roommates and even getting a haircut from his girlfriend's friend. He grew and shaved off a beard, leaving only a mustache that probably won't stick around much longer.

Goff's job got tougher, but he will be well compensated. He agreed last year to a \$134 million contract extension that includes a then-record \$110 million in guaranteed money.

The extension doesn't even kick in until 2021, but Goff realizes the salary-capped Rams already could be looking to renegotiate the structure of the deal to create some breathing room under the cap. His contract contains language that allows the Rams to restructure it without his consent, but that isn't a problem to Goff.

"If so, I'm all for it," Goff said. "I don't see why not. It doesn't change anything for me, and it helps the team out."

Meanwhile, Los Angeles Rams center Brian Allen said he tested positive for COVID-19 three weeks ago.

Allen is the first active NFL player to acknowledge testing positive during the coronavirus pandemic.

The third-year pro is not hospitalized and is "feeling good," according to a statement issued by the Rams on Wednesday night only after Allen spoke to Fox Sports about his positive test.

Allen became the team's starting center last season. He played in nine games before missing the rest of the year with a knee injury.

He is expected to resume his job as Los Angeles' starting center in the upcoming season. He was a fourth-round pick out of Michigan State in 2018, playing largely on special teams as a rookie.

The 24-year-old Allen was training and rehabilitating at the Rams' training complex when he began to feel symptoms last month. Allen told Fox Sports that he lost his sense of smell and taste, and they haven't returned even after his other symptoms abated.

New Orleans Saints coach Sean Payton revealed last month that he tested positive for the virus. The Los Angeles Chargers last week revealed a positive test and symptoms for unidentified members of their organization, but the Rams hadn't acknowledged Allen's positive test.

rell Henderson and Malcolm Brown. Los Angeles also is likely to look at skill-position players in the draft next week, although general manager Les Snead doesn't have a first-

round pick for the fourth consecutive year.

Gurley is the NFL leader in touches over the last half-decade, and his departure could increase the spotlight on Goff,

who has battled consistency issues while racking up three straight winning seasons. The way Goff sees it, nothing has changed in that regard.

"It's always been on me," he

said. "It's always been on the quarterback, and that's never changed. Since I've come into the league, it's always been up to me to make things happen."

Goff fills his isolation days

Browns return to past, unveil classic uniforms

CLEVELAND (AP)—The Cleveland Browns will look better next season. There's still no guarantees how they'll play or when.

With a salute to their storied past, the Browns unveiled new uniforms Wednesday to replace old ones that had grown stale and become symbolic with losing.

The "new" jerseys and pants were inspired by Cleveland's championship teams following the team's birth in the All-America Football Conference in the 1940s and NFL title squads from the 1950s, 60s and 70s. The updated look is also a nod to the Browns' memorable runs in the late 1980s, when they came close to making their first Super Bowl.

"We wanted to get back to the roots of who the Browns are," executive vice president and owner JW Johnson said. "We've heard it from our fans and from our players. We needed to get back to our

roots. As you look at iconic franchises like the Browns, the Bears, the Packers, the Cowboys—they're true to who they are. They're not doing a lot of changes and trying to make a lot of flashy moves with their uniforms. I think when we went through the process, it just felt right that we got back to who we are and who we'll always be."

The team's freshened look features brown jerseys with white numbers and white jerseys with brown numbers. Both will be worn with brown or white pants that have a brown stripe sandwiched by two orange stripes running down the side. They've eliminated orange pants.

The team's popular color rush jerseys, which the team started in 2018 and became their primary look last season, have been slightly modified with the removal of stripes on the jerseys and pants.

"Our uniforms have always been iconic. They've always

been classic," Johnson said. "They will forever be iconic and classic now with what we've launched and how we feel about them."

The pants replace ones that said "BROWNS" down the side and were wildly unpopular when the Browns first broke them out in 2015.

The Browns' iconic orange helmet will remain the only one in the NFL without a logo, but it is getting a minor tweak. The helmet will continue to feature a brown face mask, but will no longer include carbon fiber texture in the striping.

Stitched inside the collar of every jersey is "1946," the year the team was founded.

The team's plans to unveil the uniforms were affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. Instead of a splashy unveiling like they had the previous time they changed their look, the Browns sent out a video containing footage from some of their glory years

with shots of stars such as Jim Brown, Bernie Kosar and Clay Matthews.

Earlier this week, the Browns said they'll donate net proceeds from sales of the new jerseys to the "Hats Off To Our Heroes" fund, which will aid health care professionals, first responders, educational professionals and groups affected by the virus outbreak.

The Browns worked closely with Nike on the return to a more classic look, a process that began in 2017. The team considered a number of concepts before settling on one it hopes satisfies its passionate fan base.

"We just felt like getting back to our roots and going back to who we are and who we'll always be is a reason why we made this change," Johnson said. "We hope that our fans, alumni and players, who are obviously really excited about it, will be happy with the direction where we went."

FIFA braces for challenges over contract extensions

SWITZERLAND (AP)—FIFA is braced for legal challenges over the recommendation that player contracts should be extended until the seasons halted by the coronavirus pandemic can be completed.

World football's governing body made the recommendation in a set of guidelines intended to address the complexities caused by the unprecedented shutdown of the sport, and help preserve the integrity and stability of domestic leagues.

Most major European leagues are still hoping to resume at some point, most likely without fans, pushing the domestic seasons well beyond their usual end point—possibly even into August. However, many player contracts are set to expire on June 30, with some expecting to join a new club in July.

"You can appreciate the complexity of trying to give some guidelines globally," Victor Montagliani, the FIFA vice president who leads the body's coronavirus task force, told The Associated Press. "We fully understand there could be individual circumstances in various legal jurisdictions that may arise to questions being asked or even some challenges."

"I guess it's no different than a system we already had that happens even before we had this COVID-19 issue where if there was any challenge, it would go through the proper football judicial bodies. ... We fully understand that that may happen again this time and we'll deal with that accordingly, whether



In this March 7, 2020 file photo, Barcelona's Lionel Messi, right, is tackled by Real Sociedad's Ander Guevara during a Spanish La Liga soccer match at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona, Spain.

it be at the national level, confederation level or even at the FIFA level."

Another complication is that sports lawyers do not view the guidelines from Zurich-based FIFA as binding for any player, club or league. And it's unclear what happens if clubs and leagues from different countries disagree on which rules should apply.

At Chelsea, for example,

there is already a deal in place to sign winger Hakim Ziyech from Dutch club Ajax on July 1 while striker Olivier Giroud and winger Willian are out of contract on June 30. The Premier League season was scheduled to end in May but teams still have up to nine games to play once it resumes—which may not happen until July.



"Under Swiss law—as in most jurisdictions—it is impossible for a club, a players' association or a league to unilaterally extend an individual contract of employment that expires on a specific date," attorney Despina Mavromati, who founded SportLegis Lausanne, told the AP.

"All contracting parties

must reach an agreement and amend the contract accordingly. Further, if there is a new contract starting immediately after the expiration of the old contract, then all three parties (former club, new club and the player) must agree on the extension of the old contract and the modification of the starting date of the new contract."

Mavromati represents both clubs and players in cases and arbitrates at tribunals across multiple sports.

"Contractual extension cannot be regarded in the same way as, for example, the impossibility of a club to comply with the terms of the contract due to financial difficulties or other reasons," she said. "And, even if a case goes to FIFA and then to CAS, it will be extremely difficult—if not impossible—for a club to enforce a unilateral extension of a player's contract."

Belgium-based lawyer Sven Demeulemeester doesn't think FIFA's recommendations are legally enforceable because contracts fall under national law.

"At best, FIFA's guidelines may lead to subsequent individual negotiations or collective bargaining on a national level," Demeulemeester said, "but they have no legal value as such."

European leagues have been told by UEFA to try to complete seasons that were paused in March. The Europe-

an governing body wants domestic champions and European qualification determined based on results on the field rather than any calculations to formulate finishing positions. But UEFA based that on competitions being able to play on into July and August—past the expiration of player contracts.

"We are all football fans and we all want it to come back tomorrow," Montagliani said. "But I think right now we're in the battle of our lives, literally as a human race and I think that is our priority."

Meanwhile, most international soccer might not be played until 2021 due to coronavirus pandemic travel restrictions and the need to give club competitions the chance to resume.

Montagliani has been heading a FIFA working group formulating plans to deal with the implications of the world's biggest sport being largely shut down since last month.

FIFA already has called off matches between countries that were due to be played in March and June. Montagliani, CONCACAF's president, believes the September, October and November windows for national team matches could be scrapped.

"I personally think that might be a bit of a challenge, not so much because of just the health issues around the world and the various degrees of preparedness, but also committing to international travel as soon as we come back," Montagliani said in an interview with The Associated Press. "I think that domestic football is a priority. September is still in the books, but I would garner to say that I'm not sure it's there on solid ground the way things are trending right now."

The return of fans into packed stadiums could be dependent on a vaccine for the COVID-19 disease being ready—and that might not be until 2021.

"If we get the green light to play a football match. I highly doubt that first football match will be with fans. I just can't see that. I think that would be taken a massive risk," he said in a video interview from Vancouver, British Columbia. "I'm pretty sure it'll be a phased in approach, just like the rest of society is going to be in terms of us trying to get back to normal here."

Nadal, Murray confirmed for virtual tennis event

SPAIN—Rafael Nadal and Andy Murray are among 12 players confirmed to play in the virtual Madrid Open tennis tournament this month.

David Goffin, John Isner, Karen Khachanov, Eugenie Bouchard, Kristina Mladenovic and Kiki Bertens will also participate from their homes in the April 27-30 online competition that is expected to be broadcast live on TV and social media channels.

Khachanov says "this initiative is interesting and it will bring back some competition in our sport. I'm looking forward to challenge my fellow players and show my skills to the tennis fans around the world."

There will be 150,000 euros (\$164,000) distributed in prize money for each of the men's and women's events. The winners then decide how much they want to donate to tennis players who are having

a hard time financially without any tournaments to play.

Another 50,000 euros (\$55,000) will be donated to reduce the social impact of the pandemic.

Each draw is expected to have 16 players competing.

The Madrid Open was one of more than 30 professional tournaments canceled or postponed because of the coronavirus pandemic. It had been scheduled for May 1-10.

August restart or not

ATP chairman Andrea Gaudenzi said Thursday that he remained optimistic the tennis season could resume in August but warned that not being able to play again this year was a possibility due to the coronavirus.

"Nobody knows when we can go back to playing in total

safety: talking about August, September, November is all hypothetical, we can't bang our heads against the wall for something that maybe won't even happen because we could even start next year," said Gaudenzi.

Speaking during a telephone interview with the Italian media from his home in London, Gaudenzi said he hoped that the season could return in August.

"We have made 50 versions of the calendar that we change day by day," said the 43-year-old Italian who took over as ATP boss in January. "I am quite optimistic about autumn and even partially about summer. If we manage to start again in August, we'll save three Slams and six Masters 1000, otherwise the problems will increase tenfold."

Tennis has been in lockdown since early last month



Manfred 'to turn over every stone' for season



**N E W
Y O R K**
(AP)—Rob

Manfred wants Major League Baseball to be in position to take the field whenever government and health officials give the go-ahead.

"I think it's incumbent upon us to turn over every stone to try to play the game in 2020 if there's any way we can in the environment," the baseball commissioner said Wednesday during an interview with The Associated Press.

Spring training was suspended March 12 because of the new coronavirus pandemic and the season's scheduled start on March 26 delayed. The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended all gatherings of 50 people or more be put off through mid-May.

Among the plans baseball is investigating is basing all 30 teams in the Phoenix area and using the 10 spring training ballparks there, the Arizona Diamondbacks' Chase Field and possibly college facilities. Games would be played in empty stadiums; players, staff and broadcast crews and technicians would be kept in controlled environments, such as ballparks, hotels and MLB-arranged transport.



AP
In this March 4, 2020 file photo, Los Angeles Angels' Mike Trout slides during the third inning of a spring training baseball game against the Seattle Mariners in Tempe, Ariz.

"My job is to figure out the best possible way to play baseball when we know more about the surrounding environment," Manfred said. "We're going to have to go to Tony, and it's his job to figure out what the players want to do."

There has been little discussion on innovations such as doubleheaders with seven-inning games, extending the designated hitter to the National League, deciding extra-inning games with a home run derby and expanding the playoffs, all subject to bargaining with the union. Manfred terms those issues "a laundry list you'll consider at the point you're ready to make decisions."

He has gotten into a routine of regular conference calls among his constituents: controlling owners on Mondays, general managers on Tuesdays, team presidents on Wednesdays and the MLB executive council on Thursdays.

MLB senior staff has taken pay cuts, and budget slashing has allowed the central office to say it will continue to pay its roughly 1,200 full-time and part-time employees through May. Some teams have taken similar stances with their administrative staff.

"I think the clubs have been phenomenal about making every effort to continue some economic support for everybody who makes a living off baseball, broadly defined," he said.

Manfred is proud of the MLB staff efforts. He said the hit to revenue will go beyond this year.

"There's no question that what's going on now will have an impact on '21," he said.

FLASHBACK

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sian Games in Palau.

The three-time CNMI all-star then left Saipan for Washington for his high school education, but continued to play baseball.

Rabauliman played for Kentridge High School where he was named to All-League and All-State twice and was inducted into the Kentridge Sports Hall of Fame. After high school, he suited up for the Lower Columbia College in Portland and lifted the Red Devils (Junior College) to the title win in the Northwest Athletic Conference

"We have tried to be cautious about trying to go too soon, based on what the public health situation is," Manfred said during a telephone interview from his home in Jupiter, Florida. "For people to be out there saying we're not going to have any sports in 2020, I think that's going

Baseball in 2015.

The CNMI pride was then recruited by Lewis-Clark State College in Lewiston, Idaho and played for two seasons for the Warriors. Rabauliman, who is majoring in Kinesiology, completed his shortened senior season with Lewis-Clark on a winning note after earning a 2-0 record in 15.2 innings pitched. He appeared in six games for the Warriors, who play in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics' Frontier Conference, and struck out 14 before this year's season was cut short due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

the other way. I think we all need, no matter what your predilection is, to wait for the situation to unfold more, give us more information and then make realistic decisions about what's possible."

Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, endorsed a plan along the lines of the Arizona option during an interview Wednesday with Snapchat.

"Nobody comes to the stadium. Put them in big hotels, wherever you want to play. Keep them very well surveilled," Fauci said. "Have them tested every single week and make sure they don't wind up infecting each other or their family, and just let them play the season out."

Arizona's advantages include numerous hotels, including at least eight in the Phoenix area with 425 rooms or more. About 3,000 people likely would need to be tested

regularly, including players, club staff, umpires and the broadcast contingent.

There is no deadline for a decision, and if the health situation dictates baseball could even start in the fall and take advantage of warm weather in the Phoenix area.

"The threshold question is the health question, and that's where we're spending the most time," Manfred said.

In addition to the CDC guideline, many state and local governments have banned public events. MLB will wait to decide its course because the biggest issues are medical, not logistical or economic.

"The ones that are the most worrisome are the ones that are beyond our control," Manfred said. "Right now most of the places where we would play would not be allowable under the regulations that are currently in place, so obviously, those are the ones that concern me the most. How

long do those go on?"

MLB and the players' association reached an agreement in which the teams are advancing \$170 million of \$4 billion in salaries through May 24 in exchange for players giving up claims to the remainder of their salaries and receiving full service time if the season is scrapped.

Manfred said about 40% of operating revenue derives from gate and gate-related areas, such as luxury suite rentals, concessions, parking, signage, and program sales and advertising. Going forward with a plan to play in empty stadiums likely would lead to another negotiation with the union, led by former All-Star first baseman Tony Clark.

While some players may be reluctant to sequester in Arizona, it might be the only path to salaries that run from \$3,478 per game at the minimum to \$222,222 for Mike Trout and Gerrit Cole.

TOUGH

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She completed the race in 6:02.33 and though the CNMI does not keep records in indoor events, Northern Marianas Athletics secretary general Robin Sapong acknowledged that Tan's mark was a fast time.

A few months before her record debut in an indoor track meet, the 2018 Northern Marianas Sports Association/Tan Siu Lin Foundation Female Student Athlete of the Year joined the Rams in the ECAC/IC4A Cross Country Championship at Van Cortlandt Park in Bronx.

"It was the most memorable event in my first year with the

team because it was our last cross country meet of the season held at the end of November and cross country is a long season (from August to November). That race was also the most challenging because I was injured, but I insisted on running, so I had to push through the pain and run," the Saipan International School graduate said.

Despite her handicap, Tan still finished the five-mile course with a respectable time (23:57) and later joined the Rams' farewell celebration for the team's senior members.

Tan and company also ended the fall season by earning academic recognitions from the U.S. Track & Field Cross Country Coaches Associa-



Tania Tan, third right, joins her Fordham University teammates as they head out to the course during the 2019 Fordham Fiasco/Ed Joyce Memorial held at the Van Cortlandt Park in New York.

tion. The Rams were one of the eight Atlantic 10 schools to have both their men's and women's teams qualified for the All-Academic distinction (cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, including the most recent grading period). Fordham had the second-highest GPA among the women's teams at 3.62, just slightly behind Virginia Commonwealth University (3.65). The Fordham men topped the field with a 3.31 team GPA.

After completing her freshman season, Tan is looking forward to suiting up for the Rams anew.

"I want to continue to train hard and get faster, break my PRs, and have fun," she said.



**Goff says Rams
losing Gurley,
Cooks was
'super tough'**

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**FIFA braces
for challenges
over contract
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Flashback: Rabauliman throws no-hitter



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

A decade ago, on April 17, Jeremy Rabauliman threw the first and only no-hitter in the Junior League division in the Saipan Little League Baseball to power the Patriots to a 17-2 victory over the Ol'Aces at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Rabauliman pitched in four and a half innings, struck out 10 batters, and walked only two in a nearly flawless performance on the mound (he committed just one error). The Pats pitching ace also went 2-for-4 at bat, blasting a dou-



LEWIS-CLARK STATE COLLEGE
Jeremy Rabauliman pitches for the Lewis-Clark State College in one of their games in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics' Frontier Conference early this year in Phoenix.

ble in the second and a solo homer in the third.

Rabauliman and company went on to top the Junior League in the 2010 season for

a successful title defense for the Patriots. Rabauliman then made it to the CNMI Junior All-Star Team that competed

in the Asia Pacific Regional Tournament in Jakarta, Indonesia. He was also part of the Asia-Pacific All-Star that

played in the World Series in Taylor, Michigan in 2009 and pitched for the CNMI National Team that won the silver

medal in the 2010 Microne-

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

In this April 17, 2010 file photo, Patriots pitcher Jeremy Rabauliman, right, poses with catcher Henry Rabauliman, following the former's no-hitter against the Ol'Aces during their game in the Junior League division of the Saipan Little League Baseball at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Micronesian Regional Championship gold medalist Tania Tan acknowledged and welcomed a challenging rookie season with Fordham University's cross-country team in the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I

"My freshman season was good. It was a bit tough at first, because I had to get used to the trainings, as we ran more miles and faster paces than I'm used to (which resulted to me getting injured toward the end of cross country in the fall). But I had fun and I'm glad it gave me a challenge," said Tan, who counted competing in about seven or eight events for the Rams in the fall and spring seasons.

Of these races, Tan saved the best for last, as she posted

Tough rookie season for Tan



FORDHAM UNIVERSITY
Tania Tan races in the 2019 Metropolitan Cross Country Championship at the Van Cortlandt Park in New York.

a personal best time when she participated in the Armory College Indoor Track Meet held at the Armory Track & Field Center in New York, New York in February

this year.

"It was my first time running on an indoor track and I set a new personal record in the one-mile race," said Tan, who won the 3,000m

and 5,000m events in the 2018 Micronesian Regional Championship that took place on Saipan.

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